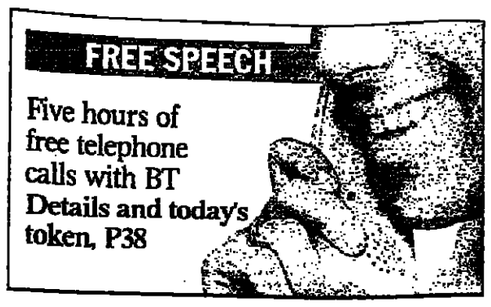
THE TIMES

30p

No. 65,500 MONDAY FEBRUARY 12 1996

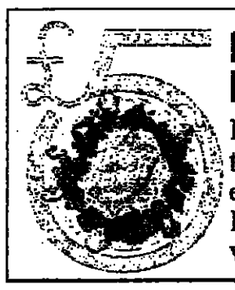


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Details and today's token, P38

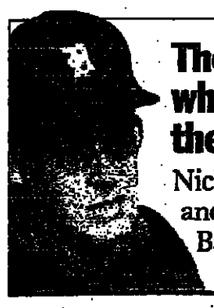
From you to your baby

Predicting a healthy future from the womb
PAGE 16



EAT OUT FOR £5

Restaurants to suit every taste
Details and voucher, P6



The man who broke the bank

Nick Leeson and the fall of Barings P42



15 PAGES OF SPORT

Heading for Wembley

Leeds 's first-leg win
Plus Cricket World Cup preview, SECTION 2

Warning of more IRA bombs

Closed circuit TV may have filmed terrorists

BY MICHAEL EVANS, BILL FROST AND STEWART TENDLER

JOHN MAJOR held talks with senior Cabinet colleagues last night to finalise a security clampdown aimed at foiling a renewed IRA bombing campaign as police and security services issued a warning that they expect further attacks on the mainland.

The meeting in Downing Street, attended by Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Secretary of State for Northern Ireland, Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, and Sir Paul Condon, the Metropolitan Police Commissioner, was called after the huge explosion in London Docklands last Friday, which brought to an end the 17-month ceasefire.

The Prime Minister is due to make a statement about the attack in the Commons this afternoon.

It emerged yesterday that MI5 had warned the Government a month ago to expect a renewal of violence, but the Security Service had not believed any resumption would take place before the beginning of March.

After the Docklands attack, which killed two and injured more than 100, MI5 also said there would be more terrorist attacks on the mainland, and possibly in Northern Ireland. Last night, David Veness, the Assistant Commissioner in overall charge of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and Special Branch, said further attacks could be launched "anytime, anywhere on the mainland". Sir Paul passed on the warning personally to the Prime Minister.

Police yesterday issued details of the lorry used to carry the bomb. It was a Ford low-loader of the type used to transport vehicles, and bore the false registration C229 GWG. The vehicle is believed to be about 11 years old.

The Yard is optimistic that the bombers may have been captured on closed circuit television cameras surrounding the side street where the device was left. Commander John Grieve, the head of Scotland Yard's anti-terrorist branch and national co-ordinator of terrorist investigations, said: "We have got a lot of closed circuit television. We are analysing it at the moment. There is material from all around the area."

He would not comment on how long the lorry bomb had been parked near South Quay railway station, apart from saying: "It was there long enough for us to be content about the index number and identification."

Standing amid the debris from the blast, Mr Grieve said that between 500lb and 1,000lb of explosive was used. "It was a big bomb. It is remarkable many more people were not killed. There were vehicles parked everywhere and people were moving them as a result of the police."

Nearby grey steel cladding lay twisted and shards of glass were scattered on the pavement. The bomb left a deep crater, 14ft across, and fractured a gas main.

Police believe that an IRA active service unit may have bought the lorry at auction and converted it into a low-loader, which would have raised fewer suspicions than an ordinary van or lorry. The bomb would have been hidden behind the cab in the lockers used to keep tools. There was nothing loaded on to the back of the vehicle.

Mr Grieve issued an appeal for help in tracing the lorry and asked company security managers to make sure their closed circuit systems were operating properly. He also asked them not to erase tapes and said: "At this stage, we don't know where this vehicle had been in the country. It would be awful if there was a tape of this vehicle somewhere and it was wiped. When we have a better idea of the vehicle's whereabouts, video surveillance film could be very useful."

Within hours of the attack, forces across Britain returned to the state of alert that preceded the paramilitaries' ceasefire. In the City of London armed officers began a series of rolling roadblocks and manned control points.

Security was heightened for VIPs and Cabinet ministers who might be possible targets and security measures were stepped up at stations, airports and ports.

MI5's warning last month was given in an intelligence assessment to key ministers which highlighted deteriorating relations between the pro-bombing and pro-peace elements in the IRA. The only aspect of last week's attack that caused the Security Service any surprise was the timing. It was judged that the IRA hardliners would wait until the end of the month to see if the Government agreed to all-party talks.

MI5 has been giving weekly intelligence assessments since the ceasefire began in August 1994, but a month ago the language changed dramatically when it was realised that the hardline camp in the seven-man IRA Provisional Army Council were no longer prepared to go along with the peace initiative begun by Gerry Adams, the Sinn Fein president.

Irish police believe that during the past month the IRA has been moving men and equipment to Britain and Northern Ireland from the Republic.

The Intelligence warnings were given to key ministers, including Mr Major, and the police. However, the MI5 assessment was only part of the picture. There was a political assessment and although ministers were prepared for a breakdown in the peace process, there appeared to have been a general view that the hardliners would wait until the end of the month.

According to security sources in London and Dublin, the decision to end the ceasefire and revert to bombing was taken by all seven members of the council when it became clear that a "disastrous" split would follow if there was not unanimity.

Over recent weeks, the hardliners, who claim to represent almost 50 per cent of IRA membership, made plain to their leaders they had lost patience with the faltering peace process, security sources in Dublin said. They had opposed the ceasefire from the start and threatened to "go it alone" unless the mainland campaign was resumed.

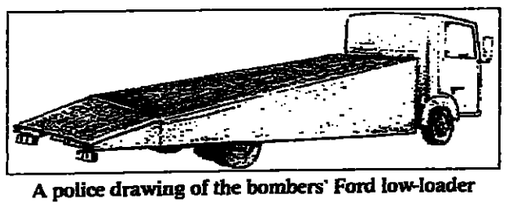
> "Three days ago the nationalist position was stronger than at any time in the present troubles. The bomb has reversed all this"
>
> —*William Rees-Mogg, page 18*

Pressure on Adams 2
Support for peace 2
Letters 19
Leading article 19



JAMES MORGAN

Armed police returned to security checkpoints in the City of London yesterday



A police drawing of the bombers' Ford low-loader

Bruton warns Major not to 'pour petrol on the flames'

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, NICHOLAS WATT AND MARTIN FLETCHER

THE Prime Minister was trying last night to contain a serious new rift with Dublin over the events which led to Friday's bomb and an end to the 17-month IRA ceasefire.

At the same time, President Clinton pledged to do all in his power to rescue the Irish peace initiative. "The people of Great Britain do not deserve to have this violence ... We will not stop in our efforts until peace has been secured," he declared on the White House lawn.

But divisions between London and Dublin were plain from remarks by John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, who bitterly criticised British policy towards the search for a lasting peace. Only hours after Sir Patrick Mayhew, the Northern Ireland Secretary, had again extolled elections as the "door into the conference chamber", Mr Bruton denounced the idea. He said that elections so soon after the resumption of violence would "pour petrol on the flames" and accused Mr Major of making a "mistake" by sidelining the Mitchell Report's call for decommissioning of IRA weapons only when all party talks were taking place.

Mr Bruton also dismissed Mr Major's call for Sinn Fein to denounce the bombing of South Quay in London's docklands as a "waste of time" and said the top priority was a restoration of the IRA ceasefire. "We should concentrate on the main goal, which is stopping the violence now, getting them [Sinn Fein] to get the IRA to say we're stopping the killing."

In an emotional performance on BBC television, Mr Bruton accused the IRA and Sinn Fein of "throwing back in our face" the act of faith Dublin had made in assuming the ceasefire was irrevocable. Accordingly, he had cut off all political meetings with Sinn Fein, although lines of communication were being kept open. Britain, which had earlier been prepared to continue talking to Sinn Fein, later apparently followed suit.

Mr Major spoke to Mr Bruton shortly after his television appearance. Downing Street officials said the 20-minute telephone conversation had been "friendly and constructive", but admitted that differences remained over elections. Mr Bruton said that he wanted Dayton-style talks with all parties under one roof, but in different rooms, of the kind that eventually secured a settlement in Bosnia.

With the peace process in turmoil, Sir Patrick said on BBC's *Breakfast with Frost* that Britain would neither "bow the knee to terrorism", nor be deflected from the quest for a lasting settlement. The peace process was "seriously injured but not terminally injured".

But Mr Bruton concentrat-

Continued on page 2, col 7

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Lightning effects

Victims of the world's biggest multiple lightning strike were left with odd skin markings and have shown strange psychological effects since they were injured five months ago
Jon Kent ..... Page 5

Closed books

Academics say that English A-level courses which allowed schools to avoid nearly all pre-20th century literature were creating alarming gaps in the reading of students arriving at university ..... Page 6

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Top jockey badly injured in fall

BY SIMON WILDE

WALTER SWINBURN, one of Britain's leading jockeys and three times a Derby winner, was unconscious in the intensive care unit of a Hong Kong hospital yesterday after falling in a race there.

Swinburn's father, Wally, flew to Hong Kong last night to be at his son's bedside. The jockey's condition was described by a spokesman at the Prince of Wales Hospital as poor and doctors are unable to say when he might regain consciousness.

Swinburn, 34, was thrown from Liffey River shortly after the start of the Albert Plate at the Sha Tin track. The horse jinked after the stalls opened, then did a complete circle before heading across the track and smashing through the rail. The rider was hurled to the ground, breaking ribs and a collarbone and sustaining a blow to the head. He was later reported to have fluid on his lungs.

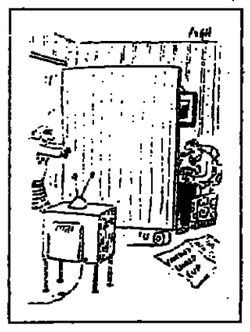
Swinburn has been one of Britain's leading Flat jockeys in the past 15 years and rode Shergar — later to disappear after being kidnapped — to victory in the 1981 Derby at the age of 19. His other Epsom triumphs were on Shahrastani in 1986 and Lammtarra in 1995.

In 1984, Brian Taylor was killed in a fall at Sha Tin and Philipe Paquet, a French jockey, sustained injuries that ended his career.

Racing, page 31



Swinburn: unconscious in Hong Kong hospital



Prison worker is held hostage

A prison auxiliary was being held hostage last night by two prisoners armed with a home-made knife in the top security Whitemoor prison (Richard Ford writes).

Negotiators and extra prison officers were drafted into the jail in March, Cambridgeshire. The prison holds some of the most dangerous prisoners in the country. The prisoners involved in the incident which started at noon yesterday are not linked to the IRA.

Whitemoor houses almost 120 category A inmates, including 36 who are classified as high risk.

Kasparov beaten by a computer

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

FIRST blood in the chess match between a computer and Garry Kasparov, the world champion, went to the machine. Against expectations, IBM's rapier-quick Deep Blue computer won the first of six scheduled matches, to whoops of joy from computer programers.

Kasparov, who had been tipped to win, was reported to be in a gloom after resigning on the 37th move and he left the Pennsylvania Convention Center, Philadelphia, without a word. This was in contrast to the reaction from the IBM computer experts who, unschooled in the hushed customs of the chess hall, leapt from their seats, cheering, to hug one another when the champion ceded defeat.

The result was said to be the first time a computer has beaten man at chess under championship-style conditions (as opposed to speed games). During the game Kasparov appeared to lose his concentration. Often so calm and confident against human opponents, he frowned as the computer disrupted his pawns and speedily deployed the Sicilian defence.

Mankind's greatest chess player fiddled with his tie, held his head and removed his jacket. His psychological state may not have been helped by the presence, across the board, of a satisfied IBM technician who moved the white pieces at the command of Deep Blue.

The 32-node, 256-chip computer with a 128 gigabyte hard disk, developed over six years, relayed its moves via the Internet from its "home" in Yorktown Heights, New York. It can consider 200 million moves a second.

Before Saturday's match Kasparov has said defeat by Deep Blue "would threaten the existence of human control in such areas as art, literature or music" and he intended to defend "human dignity". The second game began last night. Kasparov has until Saturday to save humanity.

□The match is on the Internet: http://www.chess.ibm.park.org

TV & RADIO 42, 43
WEATHER 22
CROSSWORDS 22, 44
LETTERS 19
OBITUARIES 21
WILLIAM REES-MOGG. 18
ARTS 14, 15
CHESS & BRIDGE 37
COURT & SOCIAL 20
BUSINESS 39-42, 44
MIND & MATTER 16
SPORT 23-37

هكذا في الاصل

Republican and loyalist movements ponder next move after IRA undermines peace process

Adams struggles to salvage party's political strategy

BY NICHOLAS WATT
IRELAND CORRESPONDENT

SINN FEIN



Adams: battle to restore credibility

GERRY ADAMS is fighting to restore his credibility within the republican movement amid fears in London and Dublin that he has lost the confidence of the IRA. The Docklands bomb represents the failure of eight years' work by the Sinn Fein president to move the republican movement away from the gun and down the political path.

British and Irish ministers are now asking whether Mr Adams, 47, still has the ear of the IRA. The two Governments negotiated with Sinn Fein after the ceasefire on the understanding that the party had the IRA's backing. That assumption is now in doubt.

The strength of Mr Adams's position within the republican movement will hinge on how he fares during the ferocious internal debates that will be unleashed by the end of the ceasefire. Hardline opponents of Mr Adams will say that his promises when the truce was announced in August 1994 have come to nothing.

They will recall how Mr Adams convinced the IRA to call a ceasefire because he said that a formidable alliance, embracing Washington, Dublin and the Social Democratic and Labour Party, would put pressure on Britain and the Unionists to enter serious negotiations. Opponents will say the alliance led to President Clinton's senior adviser on Northern Ireland heading an international body which insisted that the IRA would have to disarm during talks.

As for the Unionists coming to the table, the hardliners will point out that the ceasefire led to the most serious attempt by Britain in a decade to hold elections in Northern Ireland so as to appease Unionists.

Mr Adams has been astute enough during the past 18 months to cover his tracks against such criticisms. He will be able to reply that he never said the "unarmed strategy" would be easy. He will even be able to refer to an IRA briefing, drawn up before the ceasefire, which described the new strategy as "risky".

However, Mr Adams will be undermined by weaknesses which have dogged his leadership since he came to prominence after the last substantial ceasefire broke down in 1975. Despite his credentials as an IRA leader early in the Troubles, he has never won the wholehearted trust of the organisation. Many members believe that his instinct is to follow a political path, and he is regarded as an aloof man.

If he does hold on to the leadership of Sinn Fein, he is likely to try, over a long period, to nudge the movement back along a political path. This is not to say that Mr Adams is opposed in principle to republican violence. He is simply a sophisticated enough politician to realise that if 25 years of IRA violence did not achieve the movement's goals, more bloodshed is unlikely to be different. But the price of maintaining republican unity will be a tacit endorsement of the end of the ceasefire.

William Rees-Mogg, page 18
Leading article, and Letters, page 19

CHRIS HARRIS



Martin McGuinness, a Sinn Fein leader, centre, at a march in Co Mayo yesterday to commemorate the death in 1976 of the hunger striker Frank Stagg.

Community leaders call for restraint

LOYALIST

LOYALIST politicians said yesterday that they would try to ensure that Protestant paramilitaries maintained their ceasefire in spite of the IRA's decision to resume its terrorist campaign (Nicholas Watt writes).

Amid fears that loyalists would attack Dublin if they resumed violence, their leaders appealed for calm. Billy Hutchinson, of the Progressive Unionist Party, the political wing of the Ulster Volunteer Force, described violence as a "cul-de-sac" and urged restraint within his community. He said: "It is in no one's interest to follow republicanism to the dark pre-ceasefire days."

Observers in Northern Ireland expect the loyalists not to retaliate if the IRA restricts its campaign to the mainland. However, a prolonged IRA campaign would make it hard for moderate loyalists to hold back the hardliners, who are itching for a return to "war". If the IRA extends its campaign to Northern Ireland, there would be a resumption of sectarian violence.

Mr Hutchinson wrote in the Dublin *Sunday Tribune*: "If indeed republicanism is intent on a prolonged campaign on the mainland in an attempt to force the British Government to coerce the Unionist people, ignoring the principle of consent, this presents extreme dangers for peace within Northern Ireland and indeed the Republic of Ireland."

Thirty-three people were killed in May 1974 in a series of bomb attacks in Dublin and Monaghan town.

Gusty Spence who re-established the modern UVF in 1966, echoed Mr Hutchinson's appeal for calm. Mr Spence, who read the loyalist ceasefire statement in 1994, said: "The Unionists have suffered 25 years of bombing without giving in . . . I am hopeful that the loyalist paramilitaries will not be provoked."

Police defend response to calls

SCOTLAND YARD defended its efforts to clear people from the area of the bomb attack after criticism yesterday that its advice had been confusing and contradictory.

The Metropolitan Police said that 80,000 people were in the area of Canary Wharf and South Quay in London's Docklands when the IRA issued a series of warnings that the ceasefire was to end with an attack in the capital.

It said that the calls were imprecise as to the location and timing of the attack. The police said that, faced with the risk of ordering an evacuation of tens of thousands of people on to the streets, officers ordered people to remain in buildings and cleared only South Quay station on the Docklands Light Rail.

Although the Metropolitan Police received its first warning of the bomb at 17.43, one hour and 18 minutes before the explosion, some people were still wandering around the area a few minutes before the blast. The chronology of events was:

■ 17.30pm: a number of telephone calls, bearing a recognised IRA code and warning of a bomb, are received by media organisations. Sir Paul Condon, Metropolitan Police Commissioner, says the warnings gave South Quay as the potential target.

■ 17.41pm: London Fire Brigade receives coded call warning of bomb in the South Quay area.

■ 17.43pm: warning to fire brigade passed to the Metropolitan Police.

■ 17.45pm: call to *Irish News* newspaper in Belfast warns of bomb at South Quay station. Warning passed to the Royal Ulster Constabulary in Belfast.

■ 17.45: Irish state broadcasting organisation, RTE, receives call warning that the ceasefire is over. About the same time Metropolitan Police contacts buildings in Docklands warning staff to remain inside. Police begin to cordon off the area. Explosives officers sent to the scene.

■ 17.55: evacuation of Docklands Light Rail begins.

■ 18.01: RTE news makes no mention of end of ceasefire.

■ 18.30: call to RTE journalist saying the earlier "end of ceasefire message" was genuine.

■ 18.50: John Bruton cuts short an engagement to return to government buildings in Dublin after being told ceasefire ending.

■ 18.58: RTE broadcasts "ceasefire over".

■ 19.01: bomb explodes.

Confidence crumbles as shaken city goes back into the bunker

BY ALAN HAMILTON

BELFAST

FOR the past year, you could almost have mistaken Belfast for Leicester or Hull, or any other normal British provincial city. But in the past 48 hours, the signs have returned, small but depressingly significant, that normality may yet be a frail flower.

British troops, confined to barracks for almost a year, were back on the streets yesterday, although in such small numbers that an extensive search of the city discovered only one patrol, manning the hastily restored road block and checkpoint on the main road from Aldergrove airport to the city. But the soldiers had forsaken their berets for steel helmets, and their handguns for Heckler and Koch automatic rifles.

Security sources said, however, that many of the 16,500 troops remaining in the Province had been quietly moved from barracks and billeted in several of the city's still massively fortified police stations.

The RUC, which spent most of the 17-month ceasefire acting like a normal force, patrolling in cars marked "Police", has brought out its armoured Land Rovers. Officers have been issued with rifles and those on patrol are wearing their 12lb flak jackets again.

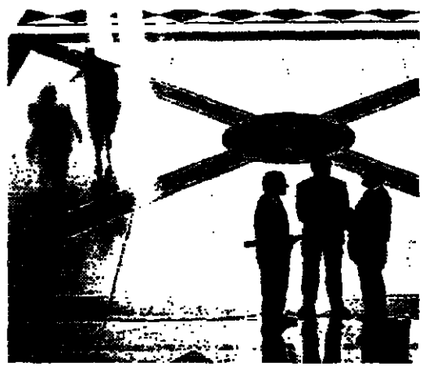
On Saturday, the RUC put a substantial presence on the city streets, but by yesterday that presence had become so discreet that anyone in the city centre wanting to ask the time would have been hard-pressed to find a policeman. There are no road blocks within Belfast: even the steel gates that used to shut off the Falls Road like a medieval city curfew at nightfall remain open and unmanned.

Further down the Falls, a modest planting of fresh Irish tricolours fluttered from lamp posts and hoardings. Locals said they had not been there on Friday. Outside the heavily protected Sinn Fein headquarters, the large hoarding demanding "All Party Talks Now", looked distinctly faded and weather-beaten. On the nearby Unity Flats, freshly painted graffito, signed by the provisional IRA, proclaimed: "Either ballot or gun, Our Day Will Come."

"It's as well you didn't come here on Friday night," a woman in a local newsagents said. "There were a lot of men hanging about the Sinn Fein office in dark glasses you wouldn't want to stop and have a conversation with." Throughout the city, the expressions concerning Friday's bomb were of dismay and disgust, with a fear-induced disbelief that Belfast could return to the dark ages of a simmering civil war. "It's the little things as much as anything that count about peace, like being able to go into a supermarket without being searched," is a frequently offered opinion.

"The nationalists would have done their cause a lot more good if they'd given a decent warning that the ceasefire was over," a taxi driver in the Protestant Shankill area said. "Gerry Adams is finished as a credible politician. You'll see more of (Martin) McGuinness now, and he's a hard man." Belfast is desperate that its period of normality should not be a brief interlude, and the reasons are largely economic. The city has seen such a blossoming of shops and restaurants that it draws shoppers and trippers from all over Ireland. Dubliners with money to spend flock north in substantial numbers out of sheer curiosity. Sainsbury and Tesco both have plans to build superstores. All that may be lost if confidence crumbles.

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Office workers will head for work as usual

LONDON

BY ERIC REGULY AND EMMA WILKINS

THE insurance industry has estimated that the damage caused by the Docklands bomb blast will range from £75 million to £150 million and is likely to force up the premiums paid by corporations for terrorism cover.

Office workers at many companies on the Isle of Dogs have been told to turn up for work as usual this morning, as businesses affected by the bomb worked throughout the weekend to find new headquarters. The explosion has made more than one million square feet of office space unusable.

The London Docklands Development Corporation said that six buildings, equivalent to between 10 and 15 per cent of the total office space on the Isle of Dogs, were badly damaged. The South Quay Plaza complex was hardest hit, along with the Midland Bank building opposite.

Thomas Howell Group, the loss adjuster appointed by the insurance companies, made the loss estimate after visiting the outer area of damage.

Tony Baker, deputy director of the Association of British Insurers, said the bill for damage could exceed £150 million if many tenants had "business-interruption" insurance.

The magazine *Property Week* is now working from the first floor above the Dockmaster wine bar on West India Quay, west of the bomb site.

Three buildings which were most seriously damaged by the blast housed the offices of the Radio Communications Agency, a government agency, the Builder Group (publishers of *Property Week*), Franklin Mint, an American mail-order company, and a branch of the Midland Bank. *Police Review* is also produced in South Quay Plaza. Thames Water owns laboratories near the site of the explosion.

The 400 employees of the Radio Communications Agency will move to offices of the Department of Trade and Industry in Buckingham Palace Road, central London. The agency's work will be redistributed to regional offices for a few days while staff settle into their temporary accommodation. The agency's office, which was seriously damaged in the blast, will take up to 12 months to repair. A few members of staff have been told to stay at home today.

The newly homeless businesses were ringing their employees yesterday using a "cascade" system. Each director is given five people to ring, who then in turn ring five people each until the entire workforce has been contacted. The process usually takes just a few hours.

The Docklands Light Rail is already running as far as Canary Wharf and buses will take travellers to all stations further south, including South Quay.

The duty manager of the Britannia International Hotel, on Marsh Wall, a few hundred yards from the bomb site, declined to say if any guests had checked out or cancelled their bookings for next week. "We have lost a few windows, but fortunately no one was injured. Our only problem at the moment is getting people in and out of the police cordon."

Bernard Harty, chief executive of the Corporation of London, does not think the bomb attack will stop foreign companies from moving to London. "What happened on Friday is not a UK or a London problem," he said. "Terrorism has happened in New York, Paris, Tokyo and Frankfurt . . . Businesses can move around, but trouble is sure to follow them."

He noted that most of the businesses damaged by the Bishopsgate bomb, which was also set off on a Friday, were back on the job by the Monday, after new office space was found and computer systems restored.



Mayhew: peace process not terminally injured

Bruton

Continued from page 1

ed his energies on an attempt to pressurise Sinn Fein into persuading the IRA to restore its ceasefire. His hopes rose when Gerry Adams, the president of Sinn Fein, said the IRA "was open to persuasion".

Ruling out ministerial contact with Sinn Fein until the IRA renounces violence, Mr Bruton declared: "We are not going to get ourselves in a position wherein we negotiate under duress, where we're having a meeting with somebody and a bomb goes off in the middle of the meeting . . . Democrats can't work like that."

Mr Adams said: "What is the point of going to the IRA unless I am able to go with a persuasive argument? The IRA is open to persuasion. We wouldn't have had a cessation if they hadn't been open to persuasion."

His comments contrasted markedly with a hard line speech by Martin McGuinness, Sinn Fein's chief negotiator.

Addressing a Sinn Fein rally in Ballina, Co Mayo, he described the present position as "grave and serious", and added: "We have talked until we are blue in the face."

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'We have lost a brother, a son and a family friend. We hope that these losses are not in vain'

Newsagent's family voices support for the peace process

By Emma Wilkins

THE family of a newsagent killed in the IRA bombing spoke out yesterday to condemn violence and defend the peace process. Inan Ul-Haq Bashir, 29, whose body was recovered from the wreckage in Docklands, east London, 22 hours after the explosion, took the full force of the blast in his newspaper shop.

Mr Bashir's family said in a statement issued via police last night: "We have lost a brother, a son and a family friend. We hope that these losses are not in vain."

The family, who live in Streatham, southwest London, asked Inspector Paul Riordan to read the statement on their behalf. He said: "They would like to condemn the bombing. They wish to voice their support for the elected Government of this country and they hope the peace process continues."

John Jefferies, 31, Mr Bashir's assistant, also died in the bombing. Mr Jefferies, from Bromley, Kent, had dreamt of becoming a musician. His father, John, 68, a retired carpenter, spoke of his anger at the murder of his son: "He is my only child and since his mum died, he's all I've got. If I could take a gun to Gerry Adams and his mob, I would blow them away."

Mr Jefferies had tried in vain to find his son after the blast on Friday evening. "I went to Canary Wharf to see if he was on the list of casualties but he wasn't.

More than 100 people were injured in the explosion at 7.01pm, just as office workers were leaving for the weekend. Five victims were still in hospital last night, including a 55-year-old Moroccan man who is critically ill.

Zaoui Berrezag, who was employed to clean at the Midland Bank, suffered serious head injuries and is under sedation at the Royal London Hospital in Whitechapel, east London. Mr Berrezag was in his car near the centre of the blast at South Quay. His son, Farid, 17, who was injured by flying glass, was recovering in another ward at the same hospital. Mr Berrezag's wife Jamma spent yesterday at the hospital.



Killed: Inan Ul-Haq Bashir and John Jefferies



The Royal London Hospital said: "Mr Berrezag is in intensive care and very critical. He's stable but his injuries, mainly to his head and face, are extensive and substantial. The family are very distressed. They have been with him continuously."

A 23-year-old woman, who was hit in the face by flying glass, was recovering well after surgery to her right eye at St Bartholomew's Hospital, east London, on Saturday. Barbara Osei, a cleaner, will be scarred but doctors hope that her sight has been saved.

Samantha Herbert, 17, who is eight months' pregnant, was sent home from hospital after ultrasound scans showed that her baby had been unharmed by the blast.

Tony Sharp, 34, an office worker, was recovering in hospital yesterday from injuries caused when his computer exploded in his face. Mr Sharp had been evacuated from his office almost next door to the site of the blast, but was told to return half an hour before the bomb went off. "The office security man told us to go back in; we thought it was a false alarm," he said.

Mr Sharp, from Blackheath, southeast London, was standing next to his colleague Neville Walker, 31, when the bomb exploded. "We fell down, then got up and rushed out the fire exit. I could feel my face covered in blood and didn't know what state I was in. It was pandemonium," he said.

Despite his injuries, which include a broken nose, glass in his eye and scarring down the left side of his body, Mr Sharp said: "I feel I am one of the lucky ones. I want to say to the families of people lost that I hope everything will turn out OK in the end."

Most of the injuries were caused by flying glass. Dr Austen Smith, senior surgical registrar at the Royal London Hospital, said: "We regularly deal with glass injuries caused by traffic accidents and fights but in this case it was the high velocity of missiles from the blast which has created disfiguring scars on their faces. Patients have suffered facial fractures and chest injuries," he said.

Father Peter Allen, preaching in the parish church of John Jefferies, who died in Friday's bombing, also urged forgiveness of his killers. It was a theme echoed in hundreds of pulpits across the country. The Bishop of London, the Right Rev Richard Chartres, said prayers for the dead and the injured at a private service in the Royal London Hospital's chapel.

The bishop challenged Sinn Fein to condemn the bombing. He said the blast had united Londoners and peacemakers everywhere against such a senseless tragedy.

Hundreds picked their way through debris left by the bombing to attend two special services — one Anglican, the other Roman Catholic — at St Luke's Church on the Barkantine Estate on the Isle of Dogs, where they heard sermons on healing the wounds left by the atrocity. The Rev Christopher Owens set up a telephone helpline and threw open the doors of the church to those distressed by the explosion.

Colin Parry, whose 12-year-old son Tim was killed by an IRA bomb in March 1993, led a vigil of about 100 people in Warrington town centre. He said: "The news is black and things look bleak but as long as the process carries on there is hope."



Tony Sharp, who was evacuated from his office but was told to return half an hour before the blast



SIMON WALKER

Commander Grieve, new head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch, surveys the destruction at South Quay in the London Docklands

Prepared for the worst and hoping for the best

By Stewart Tendler

ANTI-TERRORIST CHIEF

THE new head of Scotland Yard's Anti-Terrorist Branch had a baptism of fire on Friday. Commander John Grieve, who was due to take up his post today, had barely finished his last briefings with the Security Service when the bombers struck. Within hours he was at South Quay on the Isle of Dogs.

Mr Grieve, 49, who was born in the North East, has been a policeman for 30 years, with experience in the Flying Squad, drug squads and east London. Until last week he was Scotland Yard's director of intelligence, reorganising information retrieval and developing a new computer system.

He now has at his command 97 officers and civilian experts as well as former members of the Anti-Terrorist Branch who can be called from other police work. The branch is recognised worldwide for its expertise in post-attack investigations. Officers advised the New York police after the World Trade Centre attacks. The remit of the unit is to investigate attacks and not to prepare intelligence material. That work is led by MI5 and Special Branch officers on both sides of the Irish Sea.

The branch was recently slimmed down through restructuring and retirements but no long-term decisions have been taken about its future. Sir Paul Condon, the Commissioner of the Metropolitan Police, and his senior officers decided to wait and see how well the ceasefire held.

Unusually, for a detective outside fiction, Mr Grieve has distinctive tastes. He knows a lot about Chinese philosophy, is a good hand at miniature water-colours, and is fond — like Inspector Morse — of poetry and quotation. When his new job was announced he quoted from a speech by Seamus Heaney, the Irish Nobel Prize winner: "By its very nature the atrocious is always with us. We should always be prepared for the worst and hope for the best."

I'm no hero, says officer who spotted bomb lorry

By Russell Jenkins

THE police constable who identified the vehicle carrying the IRA bomb as suspect and helped to evacuate hundreds of people, spoke yesterday of the moment when he thought he was going to die.

PC Roger de Graaf, 30, who is based at Limehouse police station in east London, was checking that everybody had left the area around South Quay railway station when the bomb exploded.

The force of the blast knocked him off his feet and he curled up in a foetal position. In the immediate aftermath, PC de Graaf, from Woodford, Essex, looked up to see a car careering towards him. It came to a halt with the bumper touching his back.

The policeman needed five internal stitches and a dozen external stitches to his left eye and he suffered extensive bruising. He insists that he is no hero: "I have done nothing heroic, nothing special. I'm just the one who made the checks on the vehicle and who has a very scratched face."

After PC de Graaf spotted the vehicle he continued clearing people from the area and had almost finished when he heard a "rumble and what felt like a 200mph wind" rushing past his ears.



De Graaf: knocked off his feet by the blast

"I was knocked off my feet and I curled up like a ball," he said. "I thought, 'I'm going to die now, my time is up'. I looked around, there was a car coming at me, an automatic stuck in gear. The driver was in shock. I thought, 'I've survived the bomb, I'm going to get run over now'. I managed to roll over and the car stopped as its bumper hit my back."

PC de Graaf, the driver and other colleagues sheltered from the shower of glass, masonry and twisted metal in a concrete doorway. Afterwards he helped to ferry injured colleagues and civilians to the hospital before seeking treatment for himself.

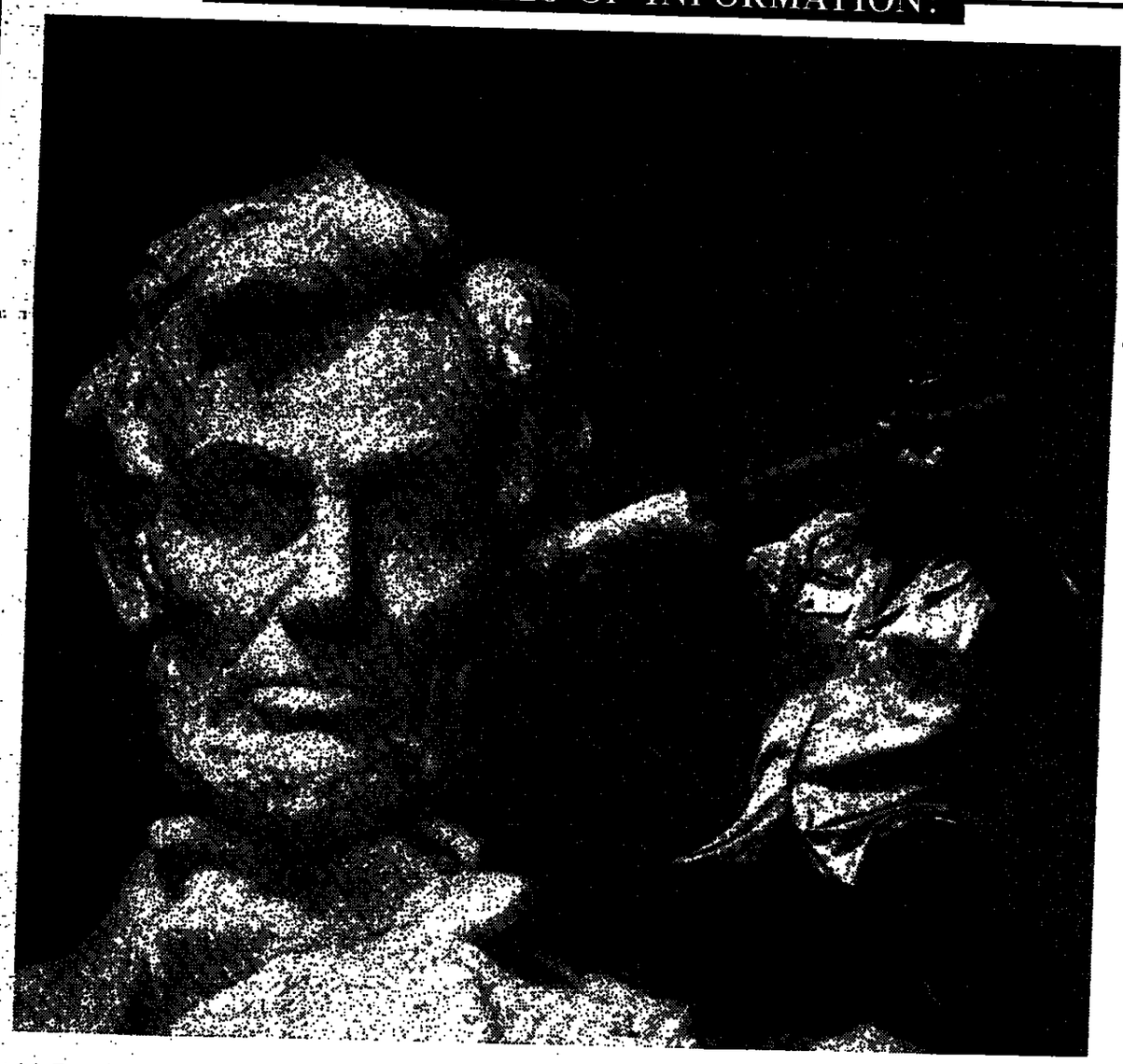
He found time to borrow a mobile telephone and call his pregnant wife at his father's home in Woodford to reassure her that he was safe. The couple have a five-month-old daughter.

Earlier, PC de Graaf, who has been in the Metropolitan force for seven years, had learnt that he had passed his examination to become a sergeant. Then he and a colleague were diverted to the terminal to investigate a bomb alert in the area.

"We checked around the locality as best we could. Most of the cars at this point had gone," he said. "We became aware of this vehicle, we were actually all sort of standing next to it, we said 'Maybe this one shouldn't be here'.

"We did some checks on it, the results of those checks aroused our suspicions a bit more. At that point we decided if it was going to be anything, that was going to be the vehicle."

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Doctors describe 'tip-toe' phenomenon in people hit by a million volts during storm

Record lightning strike left strange marks on skin

By Jeremy Laurance
Health Correspondent

VICTIMS of the world's biggest multiple lightning strike were left with odd skin markings and have shown strange psychological effects since they were injured five months ago.

Seventeen people were hit during a pre-season football tournament at Aylesford, Kent. Fourteen of the group were traced by St Andrew's Hospital in Billericay, Essex, the biggest burns unit in Britain. Details of their widely differing injuries were presented to an international meeting in Hong Kong on Saturday.

Jim Frame, consultant plastic surgeon at St Andrew's, said: "It was just like *Star Wars* — whoof — and their football kit evaporated. There was nothing left."

Mr Frame said some of those hit walked away while others suffered heart attacks and had to be resuscitated on the pitch. Many had burns and some had damage to their eyes and difficulty walking. Some later suffered panic attacks, mood swings and depression and one became psychotic. "It is like receiving a huge dose of ECT (electroconvulsive therapy) when a major shock goes through the brain."

Among the curious symptoms the medical team had found were miniature haemorrhages on the ends of the toes of those caught in the strike, which they named the tip-toe sign. "It is the first time that has been described," Mr Frame said.

Chris and Jackie Hunt and their two sons had their clothes burnt off their backs and suffered a temporary personality change as one million volts of electricity passed through their bodies.

Speaking for the first time since the incident, Mr Hunt, who coaches a local boys' football team, said: "There was a sudden downpour. The referee told us to run for shelter so we made for the edge of the pitch near a tree where our kit was. I was holding a large fishing umbrella and the lightning struck the top of it. It travelled through me to the ground and because there was a lot of water on the ground everyone got hit."

Mr Hunt, 35, a papermill engineer, said he felt locked to the ground and then felt himself falling. He was unconscious for 20 minutes. Mrs Hunt, 36, and their son Thomas, 9, went stiff and fell to the ground and eight-year-old son Matthew had a heart attack. He had 17 per cent burns to his back where his football kit had melted.

All the family had small burn holes in the soles of their feet. Mr Hunt's hands, where he had been holding the umbrella, were unhurt. Mrs Hunt was paralysed from the waist down for two hours after the strike and had curious symmetrical marks on the skin beneath each breast, possibly because she was wearing an underwired bra.

Jill Webb, a junior doctor at St Andrew's who studied the effects of the strike on the family, said lightning tended to travel across the surface of the body, rather than through it. "That is why people don't get killed. Only if it breaches the skin can it cause internal damage, burning muscle and internal organs."

About five people a year are struck by lightning in Britain. Dr Webb said the best advice in a thunderstorm was to move away from a high point and lie down. "You don't want to be the tallest object in the area," she said.

The safest place to be is inside a car, sitting away from the sides so the charge travels over the surface and through the tyres to the ground. Tyres are good conductors, especially on wet roads.



Lightning is one of nature's most spectacular and deadly forces. One of the key components are rain drops which, once they are about the size of a tiny pea, split. Each half becomes charged. These drops can be repeatedly wafted upwards into the clouds and, as they fall, redivide, acquiring more charge. Eventually, the natural insulating properties of the air are overwhelmed and a lightning flash is triggered. It can strike with such force that rock is melted. Sheet lightning occurs when the spark flashes between clouds. Summer, or heat, lightning is when a bolt a long way off is reflected by the clouds.

TONY WHITE



Chris and Jackie Hunt with their sons Thomas and Matthew, holding the remains of the kit he was wearing when the family sheltered under an umbrella

Lottery medical cash may be capped

By Alexandra Frean

THE organisation that hands out National Lottery cash to good causes is considering imposing a £500,000 cap on the amount it gives to medical charities.

The Campaign for Cancer Research said yesterday that the proposal by the National Lottery Charities Board could jeopardise many life-saving medical research projects desperate for cash.

Jackie McDougall, director of appeals for the campaign, said it was galling for the medical community to see multimillion-pound grants going to arts, heritage and sports projects, knowing that they could only hope to receive a fraction of that amount.

Paul Hensby, director of communications for the board, said that no firm decision had been taken.

"The reasoning behind this sort of policy, were it to be passed, would be that there is only a finite amount of money available. The next round of grants encompasses health care and disability as well as medical research. To have large amounts going to medical research would mean that there is less money for the others," he said.

☐ Six tickets won more than £1.5 million from the lottery jackpot on Saturday. The second prize was shared by 30 tickets, each claiming £95,326, and 1,745 tickets won £1,024.

Winning numbers, page 22

Army agrees to run 'boot camp' for young offenders

By Richard Ford, Home Correspondent

TEENAGE offenders in Britain's first two boot camps will wear uniforms under proposals for Army-style discipline and training. One is to be set up within the grounds of the Army "glasshouse" at Colchester and up to 30 young men will be under the control of military staff from June.

Michael Howard, the Home Secretary, has overcome reservations within the Ministry of Defence about his plan to put young offenders in the Military Corrective Training Centre in Colchester, Essex, and will announce the details shortly. However, plans for the Army to be allowed to recruit among the young offenders attending the camp have been abandoned.

Mr Howard has won the support of Michael Portillo, the Defence Secretary, for the creation of the camp. It is understood that part of the training centre will be declared a young offender institution, to be operated under civilian law.

The camp at Colchester, and another unit, for 60 men, at Thorn Cross, near Warrington in Cheshire, will open this year as part of Mr Howard's drive to provide a tougher regime than at existing young offender institutions. Offenders sent to the units will be required to wear uniforms but will be allowed to put on private clothing as a privilege to be earned by good behaviour. A Whitehall source said: "Uniforms are part and parcel of the package. It will be a strict regime, run by the military."

The camp at Colchester will be in a wing separate from the rest of the centre and offenders will be held under civilian law rather than Queen's Regulations. Thirty young men, aged 17 to 21, will be subject to a strict military-style regime, including marching to step when they move around the camp, addressing instructors as "sir" and undertaking physical training.

Under plans being drawn up in Whitehall, the day at Colchester will begin at 6am, with an 8.15am parade followed by training in subjects such as carpentry. There will be later parades, with lights out at 10pm.

The regime at the camp in Thorn Cross will be more relaxed, and will emphasise training, education, addressing offending behaviour and improving social skills rather than US-style physical exercises and barrack-room type instructions. Ministers want to be able to compare the differing regimes, to see what works bests for improving the behaviour of young men and whether the tougher approach can turn them from criminal behaviour.

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Computer shows Bard had help with play

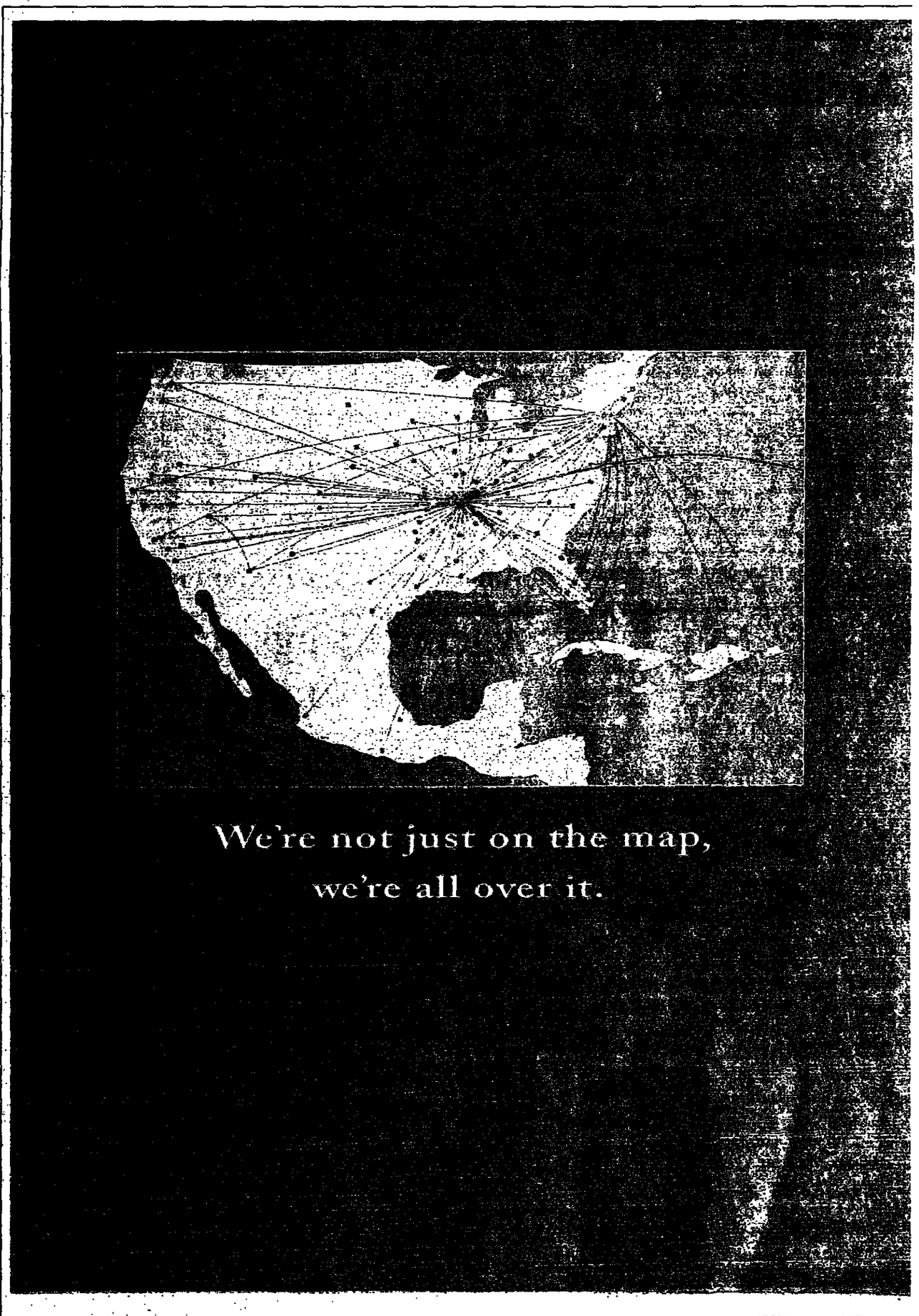
By Nick Nuttall

A JACOBEAN play attributed to Shakespeare was also the work of another playwright, British scientists said yesterday. The researchers used a computer to scan *Two Noble Kinsmen*, looking for subtle differences in the text.

They have confirmed academics' suspicions that the work, first performed in about 1613 and staged by the Royal Shakespeare Company in Stratford-upon-Avon in 1986, was a collaboration between Shakespeare and John Fletcher, who took over as chief dramatist for Shakespeare's King's Men company. The authorship of *Two Noble Kinsmen* has long been disputed.

The researchers, Dr Robert Matthews and Professor David Lowe of Aston University, programmed the computer to recognise key words from undisputed works by Fletcher and undisputed works by Shakespeare. It took weeks to "train" the computer to look for the frequency and ratio with which five words — of, the, are, no, and in — appeared in around 50,000 words of the play.

The computer judged that the first and last acts were the work of Shakespeare while the second act appears to be Fletcher's. The other two acts were jointly penned, the scientists claim. The findings, published in *Computers and the Humanities*, have been backed by Dr Tom Merriam, an independent Shakespeare scholar.



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Maths master unearths the puzzles that baffled Alice



Carroll: mixed disciplines of mathematics and humour

BY PETER FOSTER

A SERIES of baffling puzzles and brain-teasers invented by Lewis Carroll to amuse Victorian children and Oxford mathematics dons has been unearthed and collected for publication by a school inspector. Edward Wakeling, who is also a Carroll scholar, says that Carroll intended to publish a book of puzzles but the demands of more serious writing prevented him from doing so.

The puzzles, which range from children's riddles to more abstruse logic problems, have been garnered from unpublished letters, Victorian magazines and the family archive of Bartholomew "Bat" Price, Carroll's mathematics tutor at Christ Church, Oxford. The conundrums were used by Carroll, himself a Christ Church mathematics don, to test the wits of colleagues, undergraduates and friends such as Alice Liddell, at whose request he wrote *Alice's Adventures in Wonderland*.

Carroll, whose real name was Charles Dodgson, used this problem to test the logic of fresh-faced students: *If a cat kills a rat in a minute, how long would it be killing 60,000 rats?*

Students who calculated the answer by complex multiplication sums would discover, to their dismay, that in Lewis Carroll's opinion "the rats would more than likely kill the cat".

Professor Morton Cohen, the author of a biography of Carroll, said: "The puzzles contain the humour and whimsy so typical of Dodgson. He wanted children and students to catch on and laugh with him."

This thought is echoed by Mr Wakeling, a professional judge of mathematics teachers, who believes that Carroll, by trying to make mathematics fun and enjoyable, was way ahead of his time.

To entertain children, Carroll invented a game called Doublets, first published in *Vanity Fair* magazine in 1879 and later in a booklet. The object was to link two words through a chain of other words, changing one letter each step of the way. The person who uses the smallest number of links is the winner. The problem is posed in the form of a sentence such as "Make *flour* into *bread*". The solution, in five steps, runs: Flour-floor-flood-blood-brood-broad-bread. Other doublets set by Carroll are "Prove *pity* to be *good*", "Evolve *man* from *ape*" and "Turn *witch* into *fairy*".

Even dinner guests would not escape Carroll's passion for puzzles. Viscount Simon, an undergraduate at Wadham College, Oxford, and a fellow of All Souls, later recalled a problem about two tumblers: "*Take two tumblers, one of which contains 50 spoonfuls of pure brandy and the other 50 spoonfuls of pure water. Take from the first of these one spoonful of brandy and transfer it without spilling into the second tumbler and stir it up. Then take a spoonful of the mixture and transfer it back without spilling to the first tumbler.*"

Carroll's question was: "If you consider the whole transaction, has more brandy been transferred from the first tumbler to the second, or more water from the second to the first?" (Answer at end of article.)

Mavis Batey, who has written two books on Lewis Carroll, said: "The *Alice* books did not just come to Dodgson/Carroll out of the blue. Wit and invention ran through everything that Carroll did, including mathematics. These days I think he would have had great fun trying to work out a solution to the National Lottery."

When Carroll died in 1898 "Bat" Price, with whom Carroll had shared many of his puzzles, wrote of his pupil and friend: "I was pleased to read yesterday in *The Times* newspaper the kindly obituary notice; perfectly just and true; appreciative, as it should be, as to the unusual combination of deep mathematical ability and taste with the genius that led to the writing of *Alice's Adventures*."

☐ *Rediscovered Lewis Carroll Puzzles*, edited by Edward Wakeling, will be published in April by Constable and Constable. The tumblers? The amount of brandy or water transferred is the same in each case.

Academics say undergraduates are under-read

Classic novels are a closed book to A-level students

BY JOHN O'LEARY
EDUCATION EDITOR

LEADING academics said yesterday that English A-level syllabuses which allowed schools to avoid virtually all pre-20th century literature were creating alarming gaps in the reading of students arriving at university.

Professor Martin Dodsworth, who is chairing the official assessment of university research in English, called for an A-level review to revive the study of works from the 17th and 18th centuries in particular. Apart from the obligatory Shakespeare play, many students have read nothing written earlier than the mid-19th century. Other English dons supported Professor Dodsworth, some arguing that the malaise has spread to university courses. Dr Roger Knight, the chairman of the English Association, said modular courses left undergraduates scratching the surface of classic works.

The debate over whether to include a canon of literature for the national curriculum split academics and teachers. Government advisers settled on a compromise which left schools to draw from lists of authors to include poetry, prose and drama from previous centuries. At A level, however, the selection of texts is in the hands of the examination boards. Virtually all syllabuses include pre-20th century writers, including Shakespeare, but increasing flexibility in the examination gives schools the option of concentrating on modern works.

Professor Dodsworth, a former chairman of the English Association who lectures at Royal Holloway College, University of London, said: "We find that quite promising applicants have read nothing earlier than Thomas Hardy, and that is not good enough to provide a background in the language. I am not saying that 20th century texts are worthless, but their very accessibility means that students are not being stretched and are getting no sense of the historical range of writing."

Laurence Sterne's *Tristram Shandy* or Henry Fielding's *Joseph Andrews* were among the 18th century classic novels Professor Dodsworth feared were no longer being read. "Even Jane Austen, for all her exposure on television, does not feature as frequently as before." Dr Knight said the English Association was increasingly concerned about the effect of modular degrees, as well as A levels, and was likely to devote a conference to the issue next year. Graduates he had interviewed for teacher-training places at Leicester University had studied few authors in depth.

Dr Knight said: "It is ironic that there has been an attempt to reassert the place of classic works through the national curriculum, but there are these gaps among the older, specialist clientele. I think there is general agreement among academics that there is a serious problem."

However, Anne Barnes, the Chief Executive of the National Association for the Teaching of English, said she believed schools and examination boards were providing balanced courses at A level. "The 18th century novels may be an exception because they require a blend of maturity and time that is easier to find at university, but the trend is no longer just towards modern literature."

Ms Barnes said: "A-level courses vary enormously, and some allow schools and colleges to go for the most popular texts, which tend to be modern. But the Brontës, for example, are read all the way through school, and most students are getting a balanced perspective of literature, starting with Chaucer.

Archbishop says schools are cheating children

BY RUTH GLEDHILL, RELIGION CORRESPONDENT

THE Archbishop of York called yesterday for a return to the basics of education. The results of recent national tests were "pretty depressing", said Dr David Hope. Children were being cheated of the education they deserved and of "any kind of worthwhile employment in the future".

In his first important policy statement since he succeeded Dr John Habgood at York last year, Dr Hope said education should have a clear moral and spiritual dimension.

Preaching at York Minster at a service to mark Education Sunday, Dr Hope said: "It was only at the beginning of this last week that the Chief Inspector of Schools drew attention to the fact that standards of pupil achievement are not what they should be, either in primary or in our secondary schools."

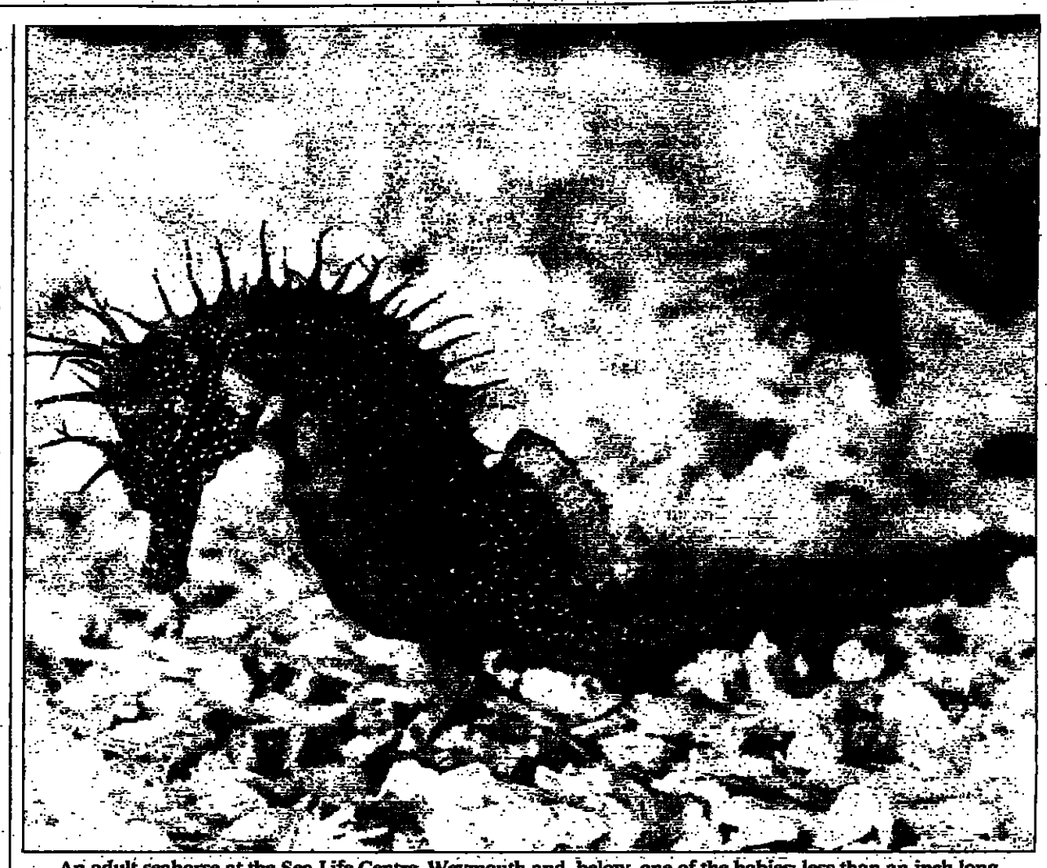
Dr Hope, who is visiting a school each week in his new diocese, and who visited 70 schools in his first two years as Bishop of London, is likely to speak soon on the subject in the House of Lords. He has been alarmed by the number of industrialists and businessmen who have told him that many school-leavers applying for jobs were unemployable.

Blame for poor standards was being apportioned variously to teachers, parents, governors, the Government and the Church. "The political parties vie with each other to the extent that education has become altogether too much a political football," he said.

He warned of the spectre of thousands of children emerging as unemployable, simply because they had been denied basic educational skills. All parties should abandon their war of words and "engage in a partnership of interest, irrespective of party or any other kind of dogma".

Dr Hope praised schools that had introduced covenants between parents, pupils and teachers, although unwritten agreements had always existed in schools. The Archbishop is also concerned at the large numbers of clergy who are relinquishing their traditional roles as chairmen of church school governors.

☐ The February session of the General Synod, which opens at Church House, Westminster, today, will debate plans for a more efficient management structure for the Church.



An adult seahorse at the Sea Life Centre, Weymouth and, below, one of the babies: less than an inch long

Marine experts celebrate the birth of an inch-long miracle



MARINE experts are celebrating the world's first successful breeding of seahorses in captivity. After months of anxious waiting, aquarists in Weymouth, Dorset, discovered hundreds of miniature seahorses being born in their specially designed breeding tanks.

The births are the latest development in a chain of events which have led to the return of the tiny creatures to British waters after an absence of nearly a century. The proud parents are among seven seahorses caught in the nets of local fishermen in the space of a few weeks last year. They were split between the Sea Life Centre in Weymouth, Dorset, and the Seahorse Aquarium in Exeter, Devon, and the youngsters were born at both sites within hours of each other.

A previous attempt was made in Holland, but the young all died within minutes of being born, and this is the first captive breeding programme involving the *hippocampus ramulosus* family to succeed. It is the male seahorse which actually carries the young after the female has laid its eggs in its partner's male's breeding pouch, where they slowly develop before emerging as tiny replicas of their parents.

Biologist Robin James of the Weymouth centre said: "Until about three years ago no seahorses had been recorded in British waters for decades. The plan now is to return half of the captive stock to the wild to boost the fledgling colony while the rest remain at the park to form a captive breeding nucleus for the future.

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American Association for the Advancement of Science

Ageing brings equality of the sexes when it comes to the brain drain

REPORTS FROM NIGEL HAWKES, SCIENCE EDITOR, IN BALTIMORE

ALTHOUGH men's brains are larger than women's, they shrink almost three times as rapidly as they get older. By the age of 40, the part of a man's brain responsible for abstract reasoning and impulse control has shrunk to the same size as the brain of a woman of the same age.

The decline begins depressingly early, Dr Ruben Gur of the University of Pennsylvania told the meeting on Saturday. Even between the ages of 18 and 45, the more rapid loss of tissue from the male frontal lobe is apparent.

Men and women also respond differently to the changes. In men, the use of glucose in the brain — a measure of how hard it is working — declines more slowly, in an apparent attempt to make up for declining brain volume. But women make no such compensatory efforts, which could have implications for longevity, Dr Gur said.

"Women seem to be able to reduce the rate of neuronal activity in proportion to the tissue that they lose, whereas men continue to overdrive their neurons," he said.

"Woman live at least a decade longer than men, and part of the reason could be the reduced brain metabolism. If you overdrive cells you get cytotoxic [cell-killing] effects."

Dr Gur used magnetic resonance imaging to measure the brains of 24 women and 37 men, and positron emission tomography (PET) to study their glucose metabolism. This showed that even when men relax, they do so in a different way from women. When Dr Gur's volunteers were asked to lie down and relax in the PET scanner for half an hour, men had much higher activity in the part of the brain controlling movement and aggression, whereas women's brains were more active in the part governing emotional responses such as body language, facial expressions and speech. Dr Gur's interpretation is that when relaxing, men activate those parts of the brain that serve functions they do well, while women start thinking about other things, and not just the things they do well.

☐ Mentally ill people are three to four times more likely to commit violent crimes, studies in New York and in Israel have shown. A similar study in Finland shows that schizophrenics are five times more likely to commit murder, or 15 times more likely if they are also alcoholics. But Dr Sheilagh Hodgins of the University of Montreal said that treatment programmes based on the courts were more likely to prevent violence than purely psychiatric-based.

Science briefing, page 14

Crude vaccine saves skin cancer patients

THE survival of two patients with advanced skin cancer has inspired an attempt to treat the disease with a vaccine. Dr Alexander Knuth, Professor of Medicine at the University of Mainz, told the meeting that both had advanced melanoma, which would have been expected to kill them within about a year.

They were treated with a crude vaccine made from cells of their own tumours and today, 19 years later in the case of one and 13 years later for the other, both are well. In melanoma, the immune system recognises the tumour cells as foreign, and tries to destroy them. The original experiments were designed to boost the process in patients already showing an immune response. Initial results from trials of a more sophisticated vaccine are encouraging, with cancers regressing in three patients.

☐ Diabetes could soon be controlled by six-monthly injections of cells from pigs, wrapped up inside tiny plastic capsules so that they do not provoke an immune response. Experiments with animals have shown an almost perfect control of the disease. The technique may prove useful in treating other illnesses.

Microwave ovens put signals in outer space

A SEARCH by radio telescope of three recently discovered planets has revealed no evidence of intelligent life.

Dr Dan Werthimer, an astronomer from the University of California at Berkeley, said that none of the planets, which are in orbit around distant stars, was emitting any unusual signals. "But absence of evidence is not evidence of absence of extra-terrestrial civilisations," he told the meeting.

Dr Jill Tarter of the SETI Institute in Mountain View, California, said that a search of 200 stars in the southern sky had detected many "intelligent" signals, but they all proved to be man-made, mainly from microwave ovens and automatic garage doors.

After more than 20 years, the search for extraterrestrial intelligence has gone private, as Nasa, the US space agency, is no longer prepared to support it. However, private donors are providing enough to extend the search. "So far we've examined only a few hundred stars," Kent Cullers of the SETI Institute said. "By the end of the next decade we'll have examined a million. There's a high probability we will succeed."

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Rare beauty rescued from the brink of extinction is prize exhibit at Royal Botanic Gardens show

Seeds grown in Kew labs may save 180 species of orchid

BY ALAN TOOGOOD, HORTICULTURAL CORRESPONDENT

BRITISH botanists are spearheading a campaign to save some of the world's most endangered and exotic flowers from extinction. Their efforts will be featured at the annual orchid festival at the Royal Botanic Gardens at Kew, west London, which opens on Wednesday.

Kew has perfected laboratory techniques for growing orchids from seed without the symbiotic fungus which the plants require in nature. At present there are 180 species in culture at the micro-propagation unit, many of them known to be rare in the wild.

One of the most prized exhibits at the festival, which runs until March 31, will be the beautiful *Epidendrum ilense*, whose bamboo-like stems carry pendulous groups of frilly white flowers. Only six plants have been found in the wild, in an area of felled forest in Ecuador. The offspring of one of these was sent to Kew. The species is now well established in cultivation and Kew has distributed hundreds of seedlings to nurseries, orchid societies and other botanic gardens. Reintroduction to the wild may now be possible.

Orchids have been grown at Kew for more than 200 years and the collection of about 5,000 species (about 20 per cent of the total number of known orchids) is used for display, research and conservation work.

Sandra Bell, manager of the orchid unit, said: "Destruction of habitat is not the only threat. Orchids have a cachet which other plants do not have and they have been overcollected in many places. Our research shows that seed-raised plants are a perfectly acceptable alternative to those taken from the wild."

Among the most striking exhibits will be bee orchids, native to Europe (including Britain), North Africa and the Middle East. They are so named because they mimic the appearance of female bees to induce male bees to pollinate them. They will be on display from the second week.

Novices will find much to interest them at the festival. Ms Bell said: "We hope to win many more enthusiasts to orchid growing, which is not as difficult as many people think. Anyone can grow them provided they are chosen to suit available conditions."

The flowers can be grown at home on windowsills. The most popular and easiest are cymbidiums, especially the miniatures; phalaenopsis or moth orchids; odontoglossums; the near-hardy pleiones; miltonias or pansy orchids; and dendrobiums.

Would-be collectors do not need deep pockets. Many of the plants on sale at the festival will cost no more than £10 to £15. Seedlings grown in glass flasks will be on sale for even less.

The principal displays will be in Kew's state-of-the-art glasshouse, the Princess of Wales' Conservatory, which houses plants in ten climatic zones, and in the recently refurbished Water Lily House, where the National Association of Flower Arrangement Societies will arrange orchid blooms. The festival will not only feature Kew's plants but also displays from several specialist nurseries. Ann and Richard Trussell of Whitmoor House, Devon, will be there from the first week, and Ian Butterfield, of Butterfields Nursery, Buckinghamshire, will be there from March 15. Bill Gaskell, of Woodstock Orchids, also from Buckinghamshire, is supplying some of the display plants as well as plants for sale.

ANDRE CAMARA



Bill Gaskell, an expert orchid grower, with one of the examples he will be displaying at the festival. Plants will be on sale for as little as £10

Boy's week-long 'trip' blamed on spiked drinks

BY RICHARD DUCE

A SCHOOLBOY was suffering from complete memory loss last night, a week after his drink was apparently spiked with drugs at a party in a hotel to celebrate the end of exams.

James Fountain, 16, who friends say was vehemently against drug abuse, is being monitored at St Luke's Hospital, Middlesbrough.

Police say James, of Hartlepool, Cleveland, is in effect still "tripping" from the effects of the drugs. Tests are under way to establish exactly what was put in his soft drink, but it is believed to have been Ecstacy or LSD.

Last night his parents, Christopher, a solicitor, and Barbara, were continuing their vigil at the hospital. In a statement, they said: "We are incensed by what has happened. He had been looking forward to the evening after having successfully completed his exams. He should have been going on a skiing trip to Italy this weekend with the school. There has been no improvement in his mental condition. He does not know who or where he is." The couple also have a 13-year-old daughter.

James, a pupil at Yarm High School for boys, where fees are £3,500 a year, was one of 300 independent-school pupils from around the North East to attend the party at Hardwick Hall, Sedgefield, Co Durham. Friends became alarmed when he became agitated. At first it was thought he was drunk and they took him home. By next morning his condition had not improved and he was taken to hospital.

Detective Chief Inspector Barry Peart said: "Since last Saturday James has basically been on a trip. He is a highly intelligent boy but he may never be the same again."

He said James, who represents his school at rugby and cricket, "abhors drugs and has the confidence to confront people who take them, and he did so last Saturday. It is highly probable that because of this his drink was spiked."

One of the party organisers, a 15-year-old pupil from another school, has been interviewed by police and released without charge. On Friday night police raided a party organised by the same boy and recovered cannabis, Ecstacy, CS gas, a knuckle duster, an imitation firearm and steroids and needles. Six people were arrested.



Fountain: spoke out against drug users

Human itch takes toll of urban fox



MEDICAL BRIEFING

NATURE may soon exercise a terrible revenge on the fox that took the opportunity of killing the Queen's flamingos when the lake at Buckingham Palace was frozen. As the miscreant is an urban fox it is likely to become infected with mange, which is reaching epidemic levels in some parts of the country and which is usually fatal in foxes.

Mange is the same disease as scabies, which is comparatively common in humans. Cases are treated every day in genito-urinary (VD) clinics.

People would catch mange just as readily as dogs or foxes were it not for our habit of washing, changing our clothes and being rather choosy about those whom we allow to share our beds. Close bodily contact is responsible for the spread of the mite in foxes and in people.

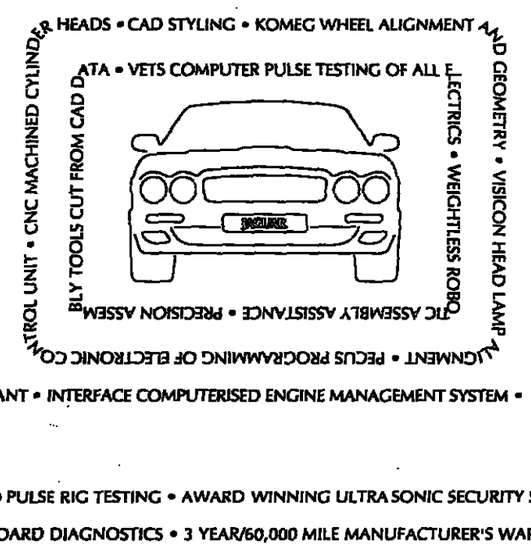
In human beings the mite *Sarcoptes scabei* is so frequently transmitted during sexual intercourse that the resulting skin condition is regarded as a sexually transmitted disease, but it can be spread by any intimate contact and babies who share beds with parents suffering from it frequently become infected as well.

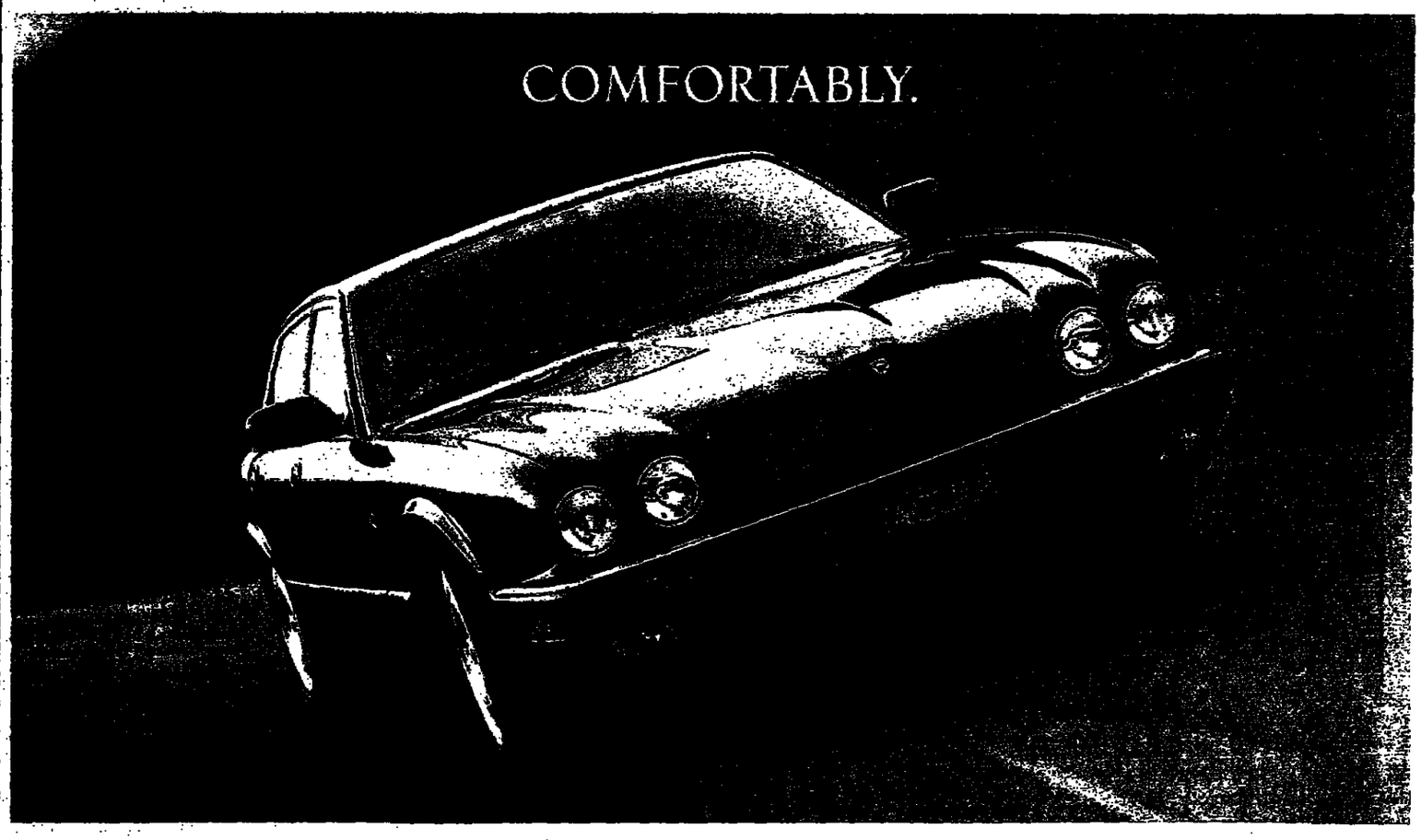
The mature scabies mite burrows into the skin at the rate of 2mm a day, laying as it travels two to three eggs daily. Although the original infecting mite dies after about three weeks, the eggs it has laid hatch, migrate to the skin and continue the cycle. The mite can infect any part of the body. Only rarely does it attack the face although it readily penetrates the soft skin of the genitalia, the webs between the fingers, the wrists and the inside of the elbows. There is frequently an associated eczamatous type of rash, which can become infected.

After treating any secondary infection with antibiotics, lotions containing scabicides, such as benzyl benzoate or Crotamiton, will kill the mite but even then it continues to cause itching, which disappears only after about three weeks, when the mite has been fully absorbed.

DR THOMAS STUTTAFORD

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Labour rallied for war on elitism

Blair swoops on disgraced peer to mock Tory elite

BY NICHOLAS WOOD, CHIEF POLITICAL CORRESPONDENT

TONY BLAIR launched a scathing attack on the Conservatives yesterday as the party of privilege and ridiculed their devotion to "a small Tory elite".

Addressing his party's local-government and Europe conference in Birmingham, the Labour leader mocked attacks on his plans to banish hereditary peers from the House of Lords and invited Brian Mawhinney, the Conservative Party chairman, to study the antecedents of Lord Brocket, jailed last week for a £4.5 million insurance swindle, before claiming that the country's democratic traditions were in jeopardy.

He said: "The first Lord Brocket bought the title from Lloyd George. The second Lord Brocket was one of Britain's leading Nazi sympathisers. The third Lord Brocket has just started five years for fraud. Is this really what made Britain great? Lord Brocket not only voted for the poll tax, but spoke in favour of it and, in the course of his remarks, called for a crackdown on lawbreakers."

Mr Blair, who told his party it faced the fight of its life in the coming general election campaign, delivered his sternest warning yet of the dangers of complacency. He said that not a day went by without his MPs or members telling him that victory was assured. "I find this complacency chilling. Victory will not come to us unaided. No one owes us power because we have been in opposition for 17 years. It is going to be the longest, toughest campaign of our lives."

The Labour leader seized on the collapse of the sale of the London, Tilbury and Southend rail line to a private bidder as another example of government unfairness. "The London to Tilbury privatisation has been derailed by fraud — not so much leaves on the line as thieves on the line," he said.

"The widespread chaos is all due to the delayed departure of John Major's Government. The Prime Minister assured us he won't be blown off course. So we can expect a new consortium to bid for the line — headed by Ronnie Biggs."

Mr Blair condemned the Government's decision to guarantee rises of only 2 per cent for nurses and claimed that its education, tax and pay policies were similarly designed to help only a minority.

The Labour leader painted a bleak picture of modern Britain as a divided nation, suffering from economic decline and social insecurity: "In the past, each generation was confident their children would do better than they did. Now we fear they won't. We worry about their schools. When they leave school, we worry about their jobs. When our parents retire, we worry about their pensions and when they are old whether their savings will be eaten up in nursing home care.

"The Tories can play the politics of fear, but day after day they are inflicting real fear on the people. In Britain today, parents lie awake at night scared about their children's future."

He said that after 17 years in power, the Tories had shown they were not up to the job. But if Labour could govern for a generation, it could transform educational standards, make a real attack on long-term unemployment, build homes and transport links and modernise the health service.

Ex-minister may face new inquiry

BY NICHOLAS WOOD

A FORMER minister may face a fresh investigation into allegations that he accepted free hospitality without declaring it to the Commons.

Sir Gordon Downey, the Parliamentary Commissioner on Standards in Public Life, is to be asked to study claims that Neil Hamilton, the former Corporate Affairs Minister, accepted undeclared hospitality worth thousands of pounds from US Tobacco.

The latest allegations have clouded Mr Hamilton's hopes of making a political comeback. He is standing for the leadership of the Tory backbench 92 Group in a ballot to be declared today.

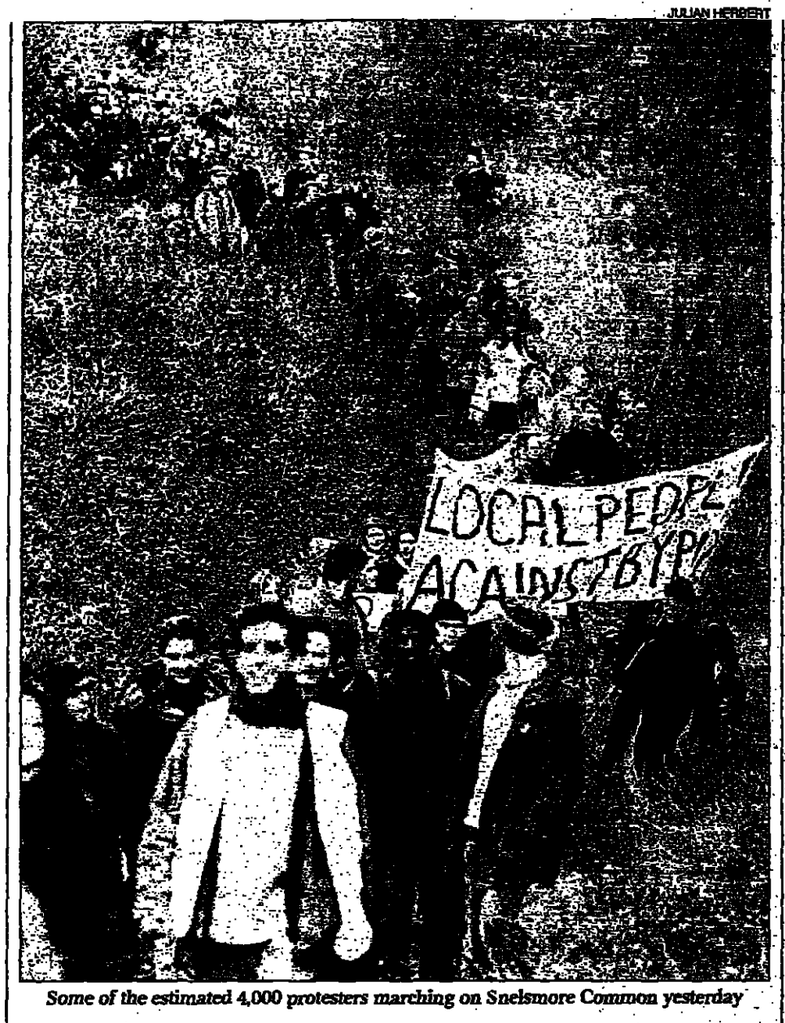
Mr Hamilton, MP for Tatton, was forced to resign his ministerial post two years ago after a free stay at the Ritz Hotel in Paris and the "cash-for-questions" affair.

He has always denied the allegations but his attempt to bring a libel action against *The Guardian* was frustrated last year when the High Court ruled that he could not sue for defamation because of parliamentary privilege.

The Select Committee on Members' Interests ruled last year that Mr Hamilton had been "imprudent" not to declare the Paris trip, but took no action against him.

Alex Carlile, QC, Liberal Democrat MP for Montgomery, who reported Mr Hamilton over his £3,600 stay at the Ritz, is to take up the latest allegations with Sir Gordon. They include claims that about seven years ago Mr Hamilton was a guest of US Tobacco at luxury hotels in New York and London in connection with the company's campaign to avert a government ban on chewing tobacco.

Mr Hamilton said yesterday that he was still trying to bring his libel action to court and that he would answer any questions there.



JULIAN HERBERT

Some of the estimated 4,000 protesters marching on Snelsmore Common yesterday

Thousands join peaceful protest march at Newbury

BY A STAFF REPORTER

MORE than four thousand protesters turned out yesterday for a rally against the Newbury bypass. Friends of the Earth, which organised 40 coaches to transport demonstrators to Berkshire from around the country, claimed it was the biggest anti-road protest held in Britain.

The march took place along a two-mile stretch of woodland, heath and water meadows earmarked for the northern stretch of the proposed route through Snelsmore Common. It ended with a mass rally where speakers, including local businessmen, were delayed for more than an hour as thousands of people, some escorted by mounted police, gathered for the event. Members of the pro-bypass lobby decided against staging a rival demonstration. Mike James, joint president of the Newbury Society, said: "We did discuss it but decided it would be counter-productive."

Yesterday's protesters included television presenter Maggie Philbin, who lives near by, and Sean Blowers, star of the ITV series *London's Burning*. Miss Philbin, accompanied by her seven-year-old daughter Rose, said: "I felt I just couldn't sleep in my bed unless I got out there and said what I thought. I know Newbury has a desperate traffic problem but I don't want Newbury to be ten years down the line with the same problem, having lost all this countryside."

A spokeswoman for Greenpeace, joint organiser of the rally, said: "The turn-out has been incredible. We have had 3,000 people through the train station and thousands more are still on their way. This is the highest number of people we have ever had for an event of this nature."

Thames Valley Police estimated there were 4,000 people on the march, which took place peacefully. "We were very happy with the way it went. There were no arrests or scuffles at all," a spokesman said. "We had a low presence there and it worked very well."

Libraries attack Bottomley's call for cash from private sector

BY IAN MURRAY

PLANS to involve the private sector in modernising Britain's threadbare library service are to be announced shortly by Virginia Bottomley, the Heritage Secretary.

Mrs Bottomley wants to find extra cash to revive the service without dipping into the public purse. A Heritage Department think-tank is completing plans to let private firms compete to run different library services just as they now bid to empty dustbins.

The Government hopes this will improve efficiency and inject capital, while leaving the service democratically controlled by local authorities.

Libraries need money urgently because, for many years, the service has been vulnerable to cuts when councils look to balance their budgets. Three quarters of library authorities had to make cuts this financial year and, with councils everywhere struggling to hold spending inside an even tighter spending cap, the year ahead is likely to be more difficult.

Year-by-year, funds have been nibbled away to the point where substantial capital expenditure is now needed to make libraries capable of meeting their statutory obligation to provide a "comprehensive and efficient service".

The Federation of Local Authority Chief Librarians calculates that £611 million is needed over the next five years just to bring libraries in England and Wales up to standard. It will cost a further £500 million to connect them to the information superhighway, which the Library Association insists is "a necessity if libraries are to continue providing a comprehensive information service".

With the Government's squeeze on public spending, libraries have no chance of being granted anything like this. Their association has applied to the Millennium Fund for £90 million to set up the infrastructure and to fund projects for the Internet, that would not end the shortfall.

To the dismay of the Library Association, which speaks for public libraries, Mrs Bottomley has so far refused to allow money from the National Lottery to be used for libraries and has said that she means to involve the private sector more in providing services.

"All the experiments in contracting-out have showed there is no real gain," Ross Shimmon, the association's chief executive, said. "The doctrinal insistence on continued experimentation does not take into account the drain on time and money that such experiments make on an already very stretched system." He argues that contracting-out a council's library services will undermine co-operation between authorities and thus reduce the range of titles and facilities available. "The only way in which privatising can work is by cutting staff, reducing the number of titles and cutting opening hours."

Over the past decade, expenditure on library books has fallen by an average of 9 per cent against the book-price index, with book funds in London and the metropolitan districts down by a quarter.

Last year, Somerset spent nothing on books and was investigated by the National Heritage Department for failing to meet its statutory obligations. The southeast London borough of Lewisham closed two branches. This year Bury, Greater Manchester, may close all part-time branches and the school service.

The issue of books nationally decreased by 15 per cent through the 1980s. The association claims this is a result of cuts to opening hours and book funds. In England and Wales, there are now less than half the number of libraries open for at least 60 hours a week as there were in 1980.

THE FIGURES

There are 167 public library authorities in the United Kingdom (England 108; Wales 13; Scotland 41; Northern Ireland 5). There are 4,769 libraries, of which 685 are mobiles (England 3,622; Wales 358; Scotland 629; Northern Ireland 160). There are 19,207 service points in hospitals, prisons, old people's homes, and so on. There are 46 branches open for more than 60 hours a week. Last year, £813 million was spent on library services at an average cost of 25p per head of population a week. The book-fund totalled £117 million — equivalent to £2 per head of population. Libraries earn £54 million a year in fines, fees and services. There are 28,169 library staff including 7,414 professional librarians. Thirty per cent of the population visit a library once a fortnight. Libraries have a stock of about 132 million volumes, of which 33.5 million are on loan at any one time. The number of audio-visual items issued grew from 14 million to 31 million in the decade to 1992.

Princess of Wales aims to preserve royal title

BY EMMA WILKINS

LAWYERS acting for the Princess of Wales have written to her husband's legal advisers to emphasise that she wishes to retain a royal title should they divorce. The Princess's team at Mishcon de Reya wrote last week to Farrer and Co, reminding them of the Princess's wish to remain Her Royal Highness, the Princess of Wales.

A divorced princess might usually be expected to modify her title from HRH the Princess of Wales to Diana, Princess of Wales. However, as mother of the second in line to the throne, the Princess might be accorded the honour of retaining Her Royal Highness as part of her title.

It is understood that the question is not proving an obstacle to discussions, which are expected to continue for several weeks. "There has been private correspondence between the legal teams on the subject of the title," the Princess's spokeswoman said. "The issue is not a sticking point."

The Princess said in her *Panorama* interview in November that she wished to be "queen of people's hearts". Her desire to retain an official title forms part of her strategy to fulfil an ambassadorial role.

The Queen, who wrote to the Prince and Princess before Christmas urging them to agree their divorce, continues to play a supportive part in the process. "It is absolutely right to say that the Queen is very understanding and has not put any pressure of time on the negotiations," the Princess's spokeswoman said.

A Buckingham Palace spokesman dismissed suggestions that there was pressure for a divorce settlement before the Queen's seventieth birthday in April. "There is no particular deadline for settling this question. The main thing is to get it right," he said. "It is not linked in any way with the Queen's birthday, which she has made known she wishes to celebrate privately."

Police fear woman is with rapist

Victor Farrant, 45, the convicted rapist wanted in connection with the murder of Glenda Hoskins in Portsmouth last week, could be taking shelter with another woman, police believe.

Detective Superintendent David Hanna said: "If Farrant is that smooth he could easily contact somebody else, and we would hate to think another serious crime could be committed." Police have not ruled out the possibility that Farrant may have fled abroad.

Train separates

A safety investigation was under way yesterday after the 10pm InterCity train from Euston to Manchester split in two as it travelled through Staffordshire on the West Coast line last Friday. Inbuilt safety devices meant the train slowed to a halt and no one was injured.

Palace coup

A documentary on Buckingham Palace and Windsor Castle has been abandoned because Thames Television wanted to focus on human aspects of their history rather than the buildings and their art collections. Another company may take over the production.

Mother killed

Velda McKelvie, 27, was hacked to death while her three young sons were in the next bedroom, detectives believe. The attacker then set fire to the house in Corby, Northamptonshire. One boy, aged three, was seriously hurt in the fire. A 24-year-old man was being questioned.

Shining knight

Alan Beattie, a college lecturer, has won the world jousting championships in New Zealand for the fifth consecutive year. Mr Beattie, from Cowesby, who uses the title Alan of York, lectures on marketing, business studies and how to join the emergency services.

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by

Vernon Coleman

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هكذا في الاصل

President emerges as clear victor in Iowa

FROM MARTIN FLETCHER IN WASHINGTON

WHATEVER the results of today's Republican caucuses in Iowa, the clear winner will be President Clinton.

The Republicans have thrown so much mud at each other that every leading contender has been sullied, and they have offended moderate Americans by pandering so shamelessly to Iowa's powerful religious Right.

Steve Forbes, the publishing heir, has exposed the hollowness of Robert Dole's campaign, though the ageing Senate leader remains by default the party's most likely nominee. Mr Forbes's huge spending has forced his rivals to follow suit, severely depleting their war chests, and his trademark "flat tax" has opened an ideological rift within the party.

As if to rub in his advantage, Mr Clinton flew around Iowa at the weekend, preaching optimism about the future, looking distinctly presidential and transparently

> "This is a demolition derby. We have gone over the edge"

enjoying the sight of the Republican bloodbath below him.

He is unchallenged for the Democratic nomination and has about $36 million (£23.5 million) to spend on attacking whichever Republican eventually emerges as his opponent. A new poll yesterday put him 17 points ahead of Mr Dole and 18 ahead of Mr Forbes.

Mr Forbes fired the first shots with some strikingly negative commercials and his rivals retaliated, producing the absurd spectacle of Republican millionaires waging class warfare on a billionaire.

"This is a demolition derby. We have gone over the edge. The sheer volume, the money, the venom, the distortions — it's being done with more money than ever before," lamented Richard Lugar, the Indiana senator who is the only candidate to have shown restraint.

Voters are disgusted. "It is the ugliest thing I have ever seen," said one Iowa Republican activist. More significantly, recent polls have measured a rapid rise in the ranks of "undecideds".

It is a long time until November, but so far things are turning out far better for President Clinton than he could ever have hoped.

Forbes attack on religious Right helps Dole camp

FROM TOM RHODES IN DES MOINES, IOWA

STEVE Forbes, the millionaire publisher, appeared to have stumbled in the minefields of Iowa's caucuses yesterday as the battle for the soul of the Republican Party reached a nadir of negative campaigning in advance of the traditional voting process tonight.

Launching a series of bitter attacks on his rivals for the Republican nomination, Mr Forbes blamed the organisation of Robert Dole for "engaging in desperate distortion" to undermine his chances of success.

Mr Forbes said a telephone campaign implemented by Dole supporters had aimed to undermine his candidacy by citing his past comments on abortion, homosexuals in the military and other social issues.

At the same time, he lambasted the Christian Coalition, America's most influential army of religious conservatives and a critical mass thought to include at least 40 per cent of those likely to attend tonight's caucuses. Ralph Reed, executive director of the Christian Coalition, said Mr Forbes's attack was likely to backfire at the ballot box. "The Republican Party is no longer the party of business, it is the party of the family."

The climax of months of campaigning in the Hawkeye state left Mr Dole increasingly confident of victory in the first real test of the 1996 presidential campaign. The assault by Mr Forbes enabled the embattled Senate majority leader to leap to the defence of the religious Right and deflected his rivals' attention in a series of withering attacks against the heir to a publishing fortune who is said to have spent $20 million (£13 million) on the race — much of it on negative advertising.

Conventional wisdom, encouraged by latest polls in the state, suggested that Mr Dole would win but the battle for both second and third places, until a week ago seemingly certain to include Mr Forbes, appeared wide open with at least 19 per cent of voters said to be undecided in the final day on the stump.

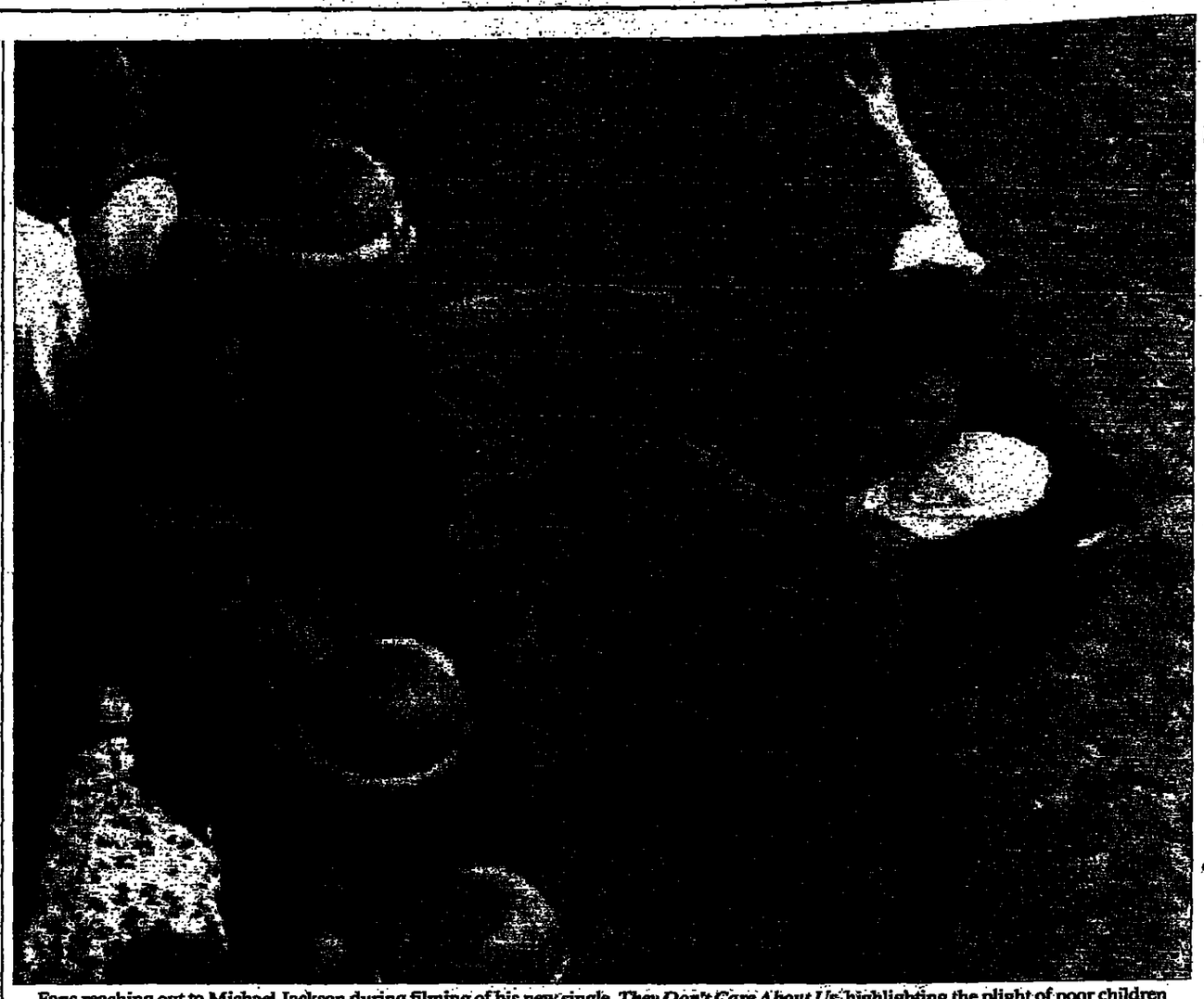
The entrance of the publishing magnate has completely altered the Iowa race. Directly flouting Ronald Reagan's stricture never to attack a fellow Republican, a blizzard of negative advertising by the Forbes machine, has produced a vituperative campaign and provided a real challenge to Mr Dole, previously seen as a favoured son from neighbouring Kansas.

"Forbes coming in was the equivalent of throwing a stick of dynamite into the mix," said Brian Kennedy, the Republican Party chairman. "It gives us a far more interesting race, even though it is not clear that Forbes is going to be the ultimate beneficiary."

In the long term, the internecine struggle between the candidates in Iowa has only emphasised a lack of certainty among many in the Republican Party that Mr Dole is capable of beating the unchallenged Democratic incumbent at the White House.

The spectre of Colin Powell, former Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff who declined to run last year, still hung like a cloud over meetings throughout the state.

In 1988, Mr Dole won Iowa with 38 per cent of the vote. The wealth of candidates in the present race makes it unlikely he can achieve a similar result again.



Fans reaching out to Michael Jackson during filming of his new single, *They Don't Care About Us*, highlighting the plight of poor children

Rio fails to ban Jackson filming in slums

FROM GABRIELLA GAMINI IN RIO DE JANEIRO

MICHAEL Jackson staged an eccentric helicopter landing on the football pitch in one of Rio's hillside slums yesterday to film a new video which has provoked controversy with Brazilian authorities.

The American pop icon arrived in Brazil on Saturday wearing an anti-pollution mask and holding hands with two small children who travelled with him from New York. The video, for his latest single, *They Don't Care About Us*, is meant to highlight the plight of children in poverty-stricken areas of cities. Before coming to Rio, Jackson went to the north-eastern city of Salvador, to film with 200 Afro-Brazilian percussionists in the colonial city that was once the slave capital of Brazil. During it, he received a bear hug from a fan which caused him to fall to his knees.

Rio's authorities took legal action to ban him from filming in the filthy alleys of the Dona Marta slum, which is home to 4,000 people. It is perched above the leafy, middle-class district of Botafogo, and has spectacular views of the Sugar Loaf Mountain and the huge figure of Christ the Redeemer.

Marcelo Alencar, the Governor of Rio, said the video would reflect a "negative and damaging image" of the city, especially when it is trying to promote its flamboyant carnival which starts on Saturday.

Dona Marta, *favela*, or shantytown, is a stark reminder of the huge gap that exists between rich and poor in the seaside city, and is a maze of narrow alleys where the scale of drug trafficking and crime are notorious. But a judge finally overturned an attempt by Rio's authorities to refuse the pop star an entry visa after protests from residents of Dona Marta, who said the cash offered by Jackson for the use of their ramshackle huts and beautiful views was "too good to refuse". Some of the houses have been rebuilt with air conditioning, and will be used by Jackson as changing rooms. To protect the star and his entourage, 80 male residents are being paid to act as security guards, and the local association of slum dwellers has been offered $4,000 (£2,500) for the use of the *favela*.

In the slums where 90 per cent of the population is black, Jackson is a paradoxical figure. "I don't know what to think about a black man who wants to be white. He should be proud of his colour. I am," said eight-year-old Bianca Moura da Silva.

Washington agonises as film rights sold for shock 'Clinton' bestseller

BY MARTIN FLETCHER

SOMEONE somewhere is making a fortune through their inside knowledge of the Clintons' foibles, and Washington is frantic to know who.

The anonymous author of *Primary Colours*, a wicked roman à clef about President Clinton's 1992 campaign, has just sold the film rights for more than $1 million (£667,000) and the paperback rights for $1.5 million. The hardback has shot to the top of the bestseller lists and every Washington bookshop has sold out. However, a month after the novel's publication the author's identity remains a mystery.

The frenzy is building, with speculation consuming entire radio and television programmes. Chat-show hosts are gathering suspects in their studios, only to receive blanket denials. *The Washington Post* has set up a hotline for tips. Enterprising journalists have even conducted "on-line" computer interviews with the author, but he or she rejects all "autobiographical" questions.

Some in this status-conscious city are discreetly seeking to have their names added to the mix while Christopher Hitchens, a British journalist who writes for *Vanity Fair*, has mischievously held book-signing sessions.

Even Mr Clinton has now joined the game, calling it "the only secret I've seen kept in Washington for three years", but the most extraordinary aspect of the whole affair has been the reaction of the President's aides.

The novel paints a shocking picture of a glib, lecherous Southern Governor whose ruthless wife keeps his White House campaign on course, but not one of Mr Clinton's campaign veterans has yet denounced it. On the contrary, their common reaction has been to express amazement at its verisimilitude, insisting it could have been written only by an insider.

Harold Evans, the publisher and former editor of *The Times*, claims not to know the author's identity. The copyright belongs to an untraceable Machiavelliana Inc. The book is dedicated to "my spouse, living proof that flamboyance and discretion are not mutually exclusive", but the torrent of speculation has yet to produce a consensus even on the author's sex.

☐ **Aids law signed:** Mr Clinton has reluctantly signed legislation that will require the Pentagon to discharge any service members carrying the Aids virus (Ian Brodie writes).

The President described the measure as "abhorrent" and, in an unusual move, ordered the Justice Department not to defend the new law in court if anyone sued for wrongful dismissal. His hope is that the courts will rule that the provision is unconstitutional.

However, Mr Clinton rejected pleas by gay rights groups to veto the Bill, explaining that it contained items that for reasons of national security could not be delayed. Those known to be HIV-positive number 1,049 among the 1.5 million service personnel. All have been deemed fit for service, but are barred from combat or serving abroad where monitoring of their condition might be difficult.



Crash jet parts may be on sale

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN FORT WORTH, TEXAS

AMERICAN Airlines has warned other carriers that parts of a Boeing 757 which crashed in the mountains of Colombia, killing 160 people, may be for sale on the black market.

American sent a letter late last month to airlines that fly Boeing 757s and Boeing 767s, said John Hotard, a spokesman for the Fort Worth-based carrier. The airline also included a 14-page list of parts that might be missing.

The scavenged parts may include both engines, pieces of the landing gear, emergency door slides, high-pressure turbine engine blades and toilets. He was not sure how many or which parts were taken from the crash site.

Engines like those on the crashed jet cost about $2 million (£1.3m) each when new, and could bring at least $1 million on the used-parts market. The parts are disassembled and refurbished to look like new, then sold with fraudulent paperwork, experts say.

Flight 965 from Miami crashed on December 20 in the mountains near Cali, killing 160 people. Four people survived.

Synagogue woos newcomers with lucrative offerings

FROM QUENTIN LETTS IN NEW YORK

A SYNAGOGUE with an elderly and dwindling congregation, hopes to ensure its survival by offering thousands of dollars to new recruits.

Shaarey Tefiloh, a 125-strong synagogue in Perth Amboy, New Jersey, is offering $2,500 (£1,600) "welcome presents" to newcomers, with the additional lure of free school transport and help in finding work. In a campaign that may present a lesson to the Church of England's less successful parishes, the synagogue has devised a glossy marketing strategy to help find new worshippers.

It has placed advertisements in Jewish newspapers and offers prospective worshippers career guidance, housing advice and a welcome from the Mayor of Perth Amboy. It will even secure a meeting with the local bank manager to discuss attractive loan rates. Under the deal, newcomers will be excused $375 synagogue dues for a year. There is no productivity clause: no figure has been set on the number of times newcomers will be expected to attend services.

In the 1970s the synagogue, which was founded in 1898, had more than 650 members. However, a generation was "lost" and the average age of members is now over 65. They admit that unless something radical is done it will probably have to close in a few years.

The novel recruiting drive was started by the synagogue's youngest member, Alan Goldsmith, 48, a shoe shop proprietor, whose grandfather was an early member of the synagogue. "All the other congregants are senior citizens," he said yesterday. "I have very close ties with this synagogue and felt it was time to do something."

"The marketing drive is being paid for from an endowment fund. "I argued that unless we used the money on this there would be no synagogue members left to benefit from the endowment, so it would become useless," Mr Goldsmith said.

During the recessionary years, younger men left to look for work, and changes in public attitudes did not suit the respectful tone of the synagogue. Shaarey Tefiloh is an Orthodox congregation. Its members observe the Torah and do not drive on the Sabbath.

Fifteen families, from as far afield as the Midwest, are currently "actively considering" a move to Shaarey Tefiloh. They will receive their welcome money once they have signed the lease on a local house.

"They are pioneers," Mr Goldsmith said. "We just want them to help the community. It is traumatic to make a move to another synagogue and we want to smooth the process for them." The scheme has created some tensions, for the newcomers tend to be more Orthodox than current congregants.

Not to be outdone by the scheme, a rival Jewish Orthodox community in New Haven, Connecticut, is tempting new synagogue members with the promise of $5,000 interest-free loans.

Arbiters of good taste tempt French teenagers



Aubry: plans chicken dishes to rival the lure of Big Macs

FROM ADAM SAGE IN PARIS

PIZZA-EATING, Pepsi-swilling, burger-loving French teenagers are in for a shock. Their elders want them to rediscover *la cuisine française*. As fast-food restaurants sweep across the country, politicians, chefs and personalities are uniting to promote the gastronomic traditions that are in danger of being lost.

Last week, for instance, a Breton youth hostel decided that it needed to tell local adolescents about crêpes, the pancake that is to Brittany what haggis is to Scotland.

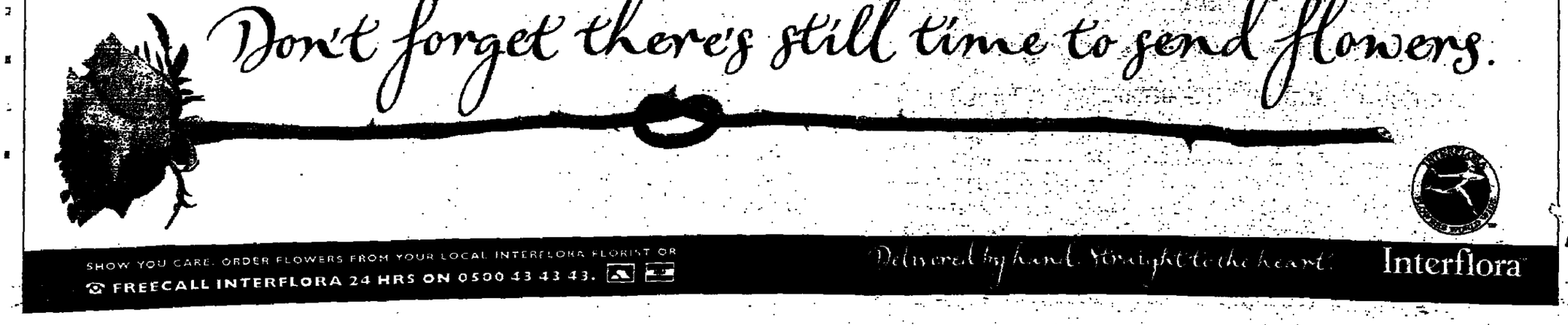
Announcing his week-long regional gastronomy courses, Gilbert Bénétou, director of the hostel in Dinan, said: "It's a question of awakening children's curiosity and enticing them to discover new flavours other than hamburgers and chips."

The initiative is by no means isolated. Martine Aubry, daughter of Jacques Delors, recently said that her Foundation Against Exclusion would create its own restaurants in rundown urban areas. These would offer cheap chicken dishes to counter the influence of such giants as McDonald's.

The announcement came amid growing evidence that France's legendary resistance to global trends is on the wane. *L'exception française* — the right to be different from the rest of the world — is becoming more and more exceptional. A survey of French eating habits showed that households consume less wine, bread and meat than ever before. Consumption of frozen food and take-away pizzas has risen. According to another study, the presence of teenagers is a powerful incitement to eat non-French cuisine. When *maman* serves a *boeuf bourguignon*, the adolescents sulk.

For years, the authorities have tried to reverse the trend by organising a *Semaine du Goût* — a week of taste — to remind schoolchildren of their heritage. Every October top chefs and teachers extol the virtues of regional cooking. For five days, teenagers are encouraged to eat snails, steak and *crèmes brulées*. On the sixth day, research shows, they eat a Big Mac.

Leading article, page 19



Golan dominates campaign as Peres launches early poll

FROM CHRISTOPHER WALKER IN KATZRIN, GOLAN HEIGHTS

SHIMON PERES, the Israeli Prime Minister, last night formally announced his intention of holding early general elections, heralding a divisive campaign overshadowed by last November's assassination of Yitzhak Rabin in which the future of the Golan Heights will be a dominant issue.

With opinion polls showing Mr Peres, who leads Labour, more than 20 points ahead of his nearest rival, Benyamin Netanyahu, leader of the main right-wing Likud Party, campaigning will be hard-hitting. Labour officials said polling would take place in late May or early June rather than October as scheduled.

The depth of emotion which the Golan, conquered from Syria in 1967, engenders among Israelis was demonstrated last week when 60,000 people made a symbolic pilgrimage here to plant new trees in solidarity with the 15,000 Jews who face an uncertain future in their 32 Golan settlements.

Among those digging in saplings was Rafael Eitan, a former chief of staff and leader of the ultra-nationalist Tsomet Party, who has dropped the first political bombshell of the campaign by scrapping his own bid for the premiership and lining up instead with Likud to form a united "national camp" behind Mr Netanyahu.

"As far as we are concerned, keeping the Golan in Israeli hands will be the central issue," Mr Eitan, a hardliner who once compared Arabs to cockroaches, said. "If we win, the Golan will remain in Israeli hands and the country's security will be safe."

Mr Netanyahu underlined how the disputed peace process will monopolise the campaign. "The public will have to decide between two options, there is no third way," he said. "One option will, without doubt, lead us back to the 1967 lines, divide Jerusalem, forfeit the Golan and found a Palestinian state. The other, ours, will maintain a united Jerusalem, will keep the Golan, maintain security and prevent the founding of a Palestinian state."

While most Labour candidates are ready to hand back the Golan to Syria as the price of peace, the settlers who will be fighting any such move will be quoting the sentiments of Rabin just before the 1992 election which swept him to power.

"Words are not enough about the Golan Heights," he told them then. "We must put them into actions — withdrawal from the Golan is unthinkable, even in times of peace. Anyone considering withdrawal from the Golan Heights would be abandoning Israel's security."

Known as "the eyes of Israel", the 700-square-mile plateau looks out over Lebanon and Syria from the snow-covered peaks of Mount Hermon. In the east, there is a strip of extinct volcano extending across a broad Syrian expanse which serves Israel's early-warning and deterrence needs. In the south are the Yarmouk and Rakkad rivers, which cut deeply between the mountains, creating a natural border that is hard to penetrate.

Even those Israelis who argue that handing back the Golan is in the wider interests of the Jewish state, do not deny its advantages.

As one officer boasted, indicating Israel's bristling surveillance equipment: "From up here, we even know who in Damascus has had their appendix removed."

"The Golan is the source of one-third of Israel's water. It is much more vital to the security of the state than the Sinai which was given back to Egypt," argued Debby Atoun, a widow and mother of six children, who has lived on a religious settlement here since 1974. The settlers are particularly aggrieved over Labour's change of heart, as 71 per cent of them voted for Rabin in 1992.

Last night it was announced in Gaza City that Yassir Arafat is to be sworn in today as the first Palestinian President. He received 87.1 per cent of the vote in the January 20 election, against 9.62 per cent for his challenger, Samiha Khalil.



Peres: 20 points ahead of Likud's Netanyahu

Hope fades for Japan landslide victims

BY PEREGRINE HODSON IN TOKYO AND OUR FOREIGN STAFF

HOPE virtually ran out yesterday for 20 people entombed in two vehicles after Japanese rescue workers failed to dynamite a giant boulder off a collapsed tunnel.

Rescue operations were called off until today, by which time the trapped people would have spent two days buried under thousands of tons of rock and mud from a landslide. The slab of rock, 230ft tall and 131ft wide and believed to weigh 50,000 tons, had slid down a mountain and crashed into the Toyohama tunnel on Saturday, crushing a bus carrying people to Sapporo for a snow festival.

The blasting operation was a desperate gamble to reach the victims, 19 in the bus and a lone motorist, on Japan's northernmost island of Hokkaido. Relatives agreed to the use of dynamite after efforts to reach the vehicles from either side were thwarted by tons of fallen rock and soil.

Rescue workers, using scanning equipment to poke through debris, said the front and back of the bus were crushed and there were no sounds or signs of movement. They saw the bus driver's hat and one hand but calls to him went unanswered.

A woman was rescued from her car in another section of the tunnel and taken to hospital with unspecified injuries.



The Toyohama tunnel in northern Japan in which 20 people were trapped by a giant boulder, arrowed, which plunged off a mountain in Saturday's landslide

Hong Kong blaze kills four during school hike

FROM REUTER IN HONG KONG

A SEARCH continued yesterday for a missing teacher last seen dragging children to safety up a steep path in Hong Kong, fleeing a mountain blaze which killed another teacher and three pupils.

The rescuers found an injured boy during the day, almost 24 hours after the fire engulfed a school party hiking to a picnic spot.

The rescue operation was hampered by the ferocity of the fire, which raged for 14 hours, fed by tinder-dry undergrowth despite efforts to contain it with water-bombs dropped from helicopters.

The blaze, which claimed the lives of an 11-year-old, two 13-year-olds and their geography teacher, was extinguished early yesterday.

Eleven children remained in hospital, suffering from burns, concussion and other injuries. Six of them were in a critical condition and doctors gave them only an even chance of survival.

Two were injured when they lost their grip and plunged from a helicopter sent in to pluck them to safety at the height of the blaze. Others lost their footing as they tried to flee uphill from the flames and tumbled down the boulder-strewn slopes through the wall of fire.

A helicopter winchman suffered burns to his face, neck and leg when he was lowered into the flames after the fallen children.

Islamic radicals blamed after 17 die in Algiers car bombs

FROM ASSOCIATED PRESS IN ALGIERS

POWERFUL car bombs killed 17 people and wounded 93 others yesterday in Algeria, which is convulsed by an Islamic insurgency.

Seventeen people were killed and 52 injured when a car bomb exploded at about 3pm local time in the Belcourt quarter of the capital, Algiers, according to official sources.

The bomb exploded just as a minibus was passing a building that houses the Algerian newspaper *Le Soir d'Algérie* and the offices of several independent journalists and photographers. Witnesses said it blew a crater in the ground. It was not immediately known whether any journalists were among the dead or injured.

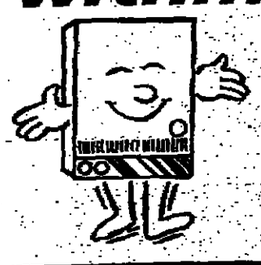
Islamic radicals began targeting journalists in May 1993, and 58 have been killed, most recently an Algerian newspaper editor who was shot dead on Saturday.

Earlier yesterday a car bomb planted in another bustling quarter of the capital, Bab el Oued, exploded and wounded 41 people. French television showed dozens of people peering at the mangled wreckage of a small car used to conceal the bomb in the Bab el Oued attack. A woman wearing a headscarf and holding a baby on her hip picked her way through the pieces of concrete.

No one claimed responsibility for either attack, but suspicion fell on Islamic radicals trying to topple the military-backed Government and replace it with strict Islamic rule. The Government, reacting to the widening violence, clamped down by ordering Algerian newspapers to submit reports on terrorism to a government censor.

The bomb that wounded 41 exploded in front of a heavily protected city office, but the building underwent severe damage.

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EU foreign policy left in disarray by Balkan and Aegean bungling



Agnelli: undermined EU administrator in Mostar

*Two disputes have again exposed the inability of European states to take charge of security in their own backyard and have attracted criticism from senior US officials, **Charles Bremner** writes*

SEVEN weeks before the European Union starts revamping the Maastricht treaty, the 15 member states have given themselves a fresh lesson in their inability to take joint charge of security in their own backyard.

Bungling in the Balkans and the confrontation between Greece and Turkey, averted with US mediation, have shed light on the emptiness of the grand ambitions of the common foreign and security policy enshrined in the treaty.

The EU's disarray also highlights the huge obstacles to acquiring the diplomatic or military influence to match its formidable trading muscle and economic power. The 15 are to attempt this at the Intergovernmental Conference to revise the treaty in Turin next month.

The Americans lost no time in rubbing home the message that little has changed since Henry Kissinger, the former Secretary of State, used to quip that he had no telephone number for "dialling Europe".

When it took the EU a week to step into the row between Greece and Turkey, Richard Holbrooke, the blunt-speaking US Assistant Secretary of State, wondered why the Europeans could not handle a dispute involving one of its members and a Nato member over a tiny Aegean island inhabited only by goats. "While Clinton was on the phone with Athens and Ankara, the Europeans were literally sleeping though the night," he said. "You have to wonder why Europe does not seem capable of taking action in its own theatre."

Britain rejected the US charge as "nonsense" in an angry outburst by the Foreign Office, which noted that the British Ambassadors in Athens and Ankara had been active in trying to defuse the tension.

Officials in Brussels offer multiple excuses for the Aegean failure. First is the absence of government in Italy, the current EU president. Under EU procedures, it is up to the holder of the rotating presidency to take the diplomatic initiative in foreign affairs and co-ordinate action. Susanna Agnelli, the Italian Foreign Minister, stepped in on Wednesday. Italy's tardiness was seen in Brussels as a warning of what the EU might face at the inter-governmental conference. "There are less than two months to go and everything is drifting," a diplomat said. "If the Italians don't get their act together, we could be in for a mess at Turin."

The buck-passing over the Aegean dispute has been just as evident in the EU's latest embarrassment in former Yugoslavia, where the wars of the past four years cruelly exposed European inability to act in concert. Haris Koschnick, the German EU administrator responsible for the divided city of Mostar, threatened to resign if the EU failed to back his plan for reuniting Croatia says the plan breaches the Dayton peace accords and rioters attacked Herr Koschnick's car in Mostar to press the point. The administrator fears that his authority has been undermined by Signora Agnelli, who went to Zagreb talking of negotiating a new plan.

For the great majority of states and Jacques Santer, President of the European Commission, the solution is to equip the EU with more centralised authority over its diplomacy. This means scrapping the national veto, often used to block joint action, in favour of qualified majority voting. John Major flatly opposes this and France is unlikely to go along with it, despite President Chirac's pro-European rhetoric. There is wide agreement, however, that with 15 members and more coming, the Council of Ministers is ineffective. "The council has ceased to be a place of negotiation and become a place where you drop in to sign a press release," a senior French diplomat said. French and German officials agree privately with Britain that the big states will never bow to the will of the smaller ones and will hold on to their sovereignty. The lesser members will just "have to come to terms with the reality of geopolitical relations", a British official said.

Stuart Eizenstat, the US Ambassador to the EU, made the point on Thursday, saying the lessons of Europe's failure in Bosnia-Herzegovina had changed nothing. "Key member states do not yet wish to relinquish their prerogatives in the foreign-policy area in favour of a common approach."

Mr Eizenstat urged Nato and the EU to start talking working together, amid moves to bring the former Communist states into both organisations.

Peter Riddell, page 18

US aims to outfox Russian mafia with new $100 bill

FROM IAN BRODIE IN WASHINGTON

IN one of the most intriguing and sensitive currency exchanges ever attempted, the United States Treasury is to unload millions of its new $100 notes — which are supposedly counterfeit-proof — on Russia.

Great fanfare is preceding the change. Washington has sent more than 2,000 videos explaining the new currency to Russia and the other former Soviet republics. A currency hotline at the US Embassy in Moscow is receiving 200 calls a day.

But utmost secrecy surrounds the shipping of the redesigned money to Russia. The Treasury has not announced a date so far for its introduction, only that it will be before the end of March.

Experts say that the Americans have deliberately delayed any decision on when to send the money, or to which airport, to foil any hijack attempts by the powerful Russian mafia. In the economic uncertainty of modern Russia, the $100 note is widely accepted as the hard currency of choice among the mafia and millions of entrepreneurs and hoarders. The Russian Central Bank estimates that between $15 and $20 billion (£9.6 and £13 billion) is circulating in US currency, about 80 per cent of it in $100 notes.

The high-anxiety question is how many of the old notes are counterfeit. The Central Bank says up to 20 per cent. Not so, claim agents of the US Secret Service, who track fake money as well as guard Presidents. By their reckoning, for every million dollars that Russians hold in cash only a paltry $80 is counterfeit.

That figure seems scarcely plausible. Even in the US, $100 notes are often looked at askance, such is their reputation as possible forgeries. In the Russian exchange, obvious counterfeit notes will be rejected.

High-tech engravers have laboured for ten years to design the new note specifically to frustrate counterfeiters, especially those in Iran who were said to be flooding the world with bogus dollars to undermine American integrity. The Secret Service's low estimate of fakes in Russia could be simply to corroborate Washington's insistence that reports of the Iranian operation were greatly exaggerated.

The new notes will stay ahead of the technology curve and are intended to outwit the latest laser copiers and scanners that can increasingly mimic the colour of existing notes to near-perfection. The incoming $100 note increases the size of Benjamin Franklin's head and adds features difficult to replicate. They include micro-printing, a polymer thread that glows under ultraviolet light and colour-shifting ink that looks black when viewed directly and green when seen at an angle.

Russian demand for the new notes is expected to be intense. "No one will want any of the old notes for a second longer than they have to," a Moscow currency dealer said.

US Treasury officials admit that they must avoid provoking a rush on Russian foreign exchange outlets which could destabilise the economy. The officials say that the old notes will remain in use and there is no deadline for their expiry.

Sceptical Russians will need some convincing of that. When the rouble was changed five years ago, they were allowed only to exchange a month's salary. Millions who had stuffed mattresses with cash lost their life savings while they slept on them.

Becky Lowenthal, a US Treasury spokeswoman, said: "We're stressing that, unlike many countries where notes have been withdrawn, our currency will not be recalled. We would run the risk of instability in some places, especially Russia, if we did that. We're not taking the old notes out of circulation, just replacing them as they come back to the Federal Reserve."

Ms Lowenthal conceded that the new notes would be seen as more desirable, but predicted that withdrawal of the older ones could take many years. Moreover, this is only the beginning. Within a few years the Treasury will redesign the $50, $20, $10 and $5 notes, but not the $1 which may, despite an earlier failed attempt, give way to a coin.

☐ **Baghdad:** Iraq and Russia have signed a deal for the implementation of giant power and oil projects here, Iraqi official newspapers reported yesterday. Russia would carry out "a number of giant projects in the fields of crude extraction and power generation", they said. *(Reuter)*



Jean-Marie Le Pen, right, congratulating Vladimir Zhirinovsky in Moscow

Vodka party cheers Zhirinovsky

Moscow: Vladimir Zhirinovsky, the Russian extremist leader, threw a loud and lavish anniversary party on Saturday to launch his campaign for the presidency (Thomas de Waal writes).

A crowd at the Moscow church where he celebrated his silver wedding anniversary with an Orthodox blessing ceremony was treated to free vodka and pies before Mr Zhirinovsky and his wife, Galina, drew up in a horse-drawn troika. The guest of honour was Jean-Marie Le Pen, leader of the French far-right National Front, who flew in for the occasion.

The party has already set up a office to organise celebrations for Mr Zhirinovsky's fiftieth birthday on April 25.

La Fenice is to be rebuilt 'as it was'

FROM RICHARD OWEN IN ROME

THE Venice authorities will announce this week that La Fenice opera house, which burnt down two weeks ago, is to be restored as it was. The announcement ends a controversy over whether the funds which have begun to pour in should be used to reconstruct an exact replica of the 18th-century "gem of Europe" or a new 21st-century opera house.

The decision is a victory for Massimo Cacciari, the left-wing Mayor of Venice, much praised by Venetians as an efficient administrator. Signor Cacciari insisted the day after the fire that La Fenice ("the Phoenix") should be reconstructed *com'era, e dov'era*, as and where it was. This was the formula used for the reconstruction of the Campanile in St Mark's Square when it collapsed in 1902.

Venice this week begins its carnival season in a mood of sadness and hope. "This is like holding the carnival at the time of the plague," said Maurizo Scaparro, who revived the carnival in its modern form.

In addition to masked balls in the great houses lining the Grand Canal, there will be a harlequin masquerade ball at the Goldoni theatre, starring the actor and playwright Dario Fo, and a concert given in St Mark's Square by the rock singer Peter Gabriel.

Signor Fo said Venice was staging a "comic opera funeral" for La Fenice, adding that this was "a symbol of Italy today". The rebuilding commission includes not only the Mayor but also figures from the discredited Christian Democrat-Socialist administration he replaced after the "clean hands" revolution of 1992. These include Gianfranco Pontel, who chairs the trust which runs the theatre.

There is disquiet over the sweeping powers given to the rebuilding commission and memories of the corruption prior to 1992 over building contracts in Venice have been revived. There is also continuing disagreement over whether La Fenice "as it was" means its original 1792 form or includes the additions made after the last fire in 1836.

The cost of rebuilding was put at £133 million two weeks ago, but this has since been scaled down to about £53 million, of which the Italian Government has pledged one-tenth. The rest will come from the appeal funds set up in Europe and America.

Opera experts say the restoration is also an opportunity for La Fenice's company to revive its reputation after criticisms that it had become provincial, beholden to trade unions and generally unworthy of its magnificent home.

Major is to visit colony

Hong Kong: John Major is to visit Hong Kong next month (Jonathan Mirsky writes).

He will arrive in the colony after a a meeting in Thailand of heads of European Union governments, their South-East Asian counterparts, and Chinese, South Korean and Japanese leaders on March 1 and 2. The Prime Minister is expected to have private talks in Bangkok with President Jiang Zemin or Li Peng, the Chinese Prime Minister. It is feared in Hong Kong that there is little Mr Major can do to diminish fears over next year's handover to Peking.

Papal trip ends

Caracas: The Pope ended a week-long tour of Latin America by telling thousands of Venezuelans at an open-air Mass to shun "idols" such as materialism and live by Christian ideals. *(AP)*

Grenade toll

Oslo: Two teenagers were killed and four others injured, three severely, when an explosive, believed to be a hand-grenade, went off during a party at a house in Kvinesdal, southwestern Norway. *(AP)*

Stand-off ends

Grozny: Russian soldiers swept the central square of Grozny, the Chechen capital, for bombs after pro-independence protesters were driven away in buses, ending a tense week-long stand-off. *(Reuter)*

Poll rioting

Dhaka: Riots spread across Bangladesh as opposition activists tried to halt Thursday's general election. Two people were shot dead, one a senior policeman, and nearly 150 people were hurt. *(Reuter)*

Monk praised

Phnom Penh: Maha Ghosananda, a monk called the "Gandhi of Cambodia" for trying to end fighting between the Government and the Khmer Rouge, has been nominated for the Nobel Peace Prize. *(AFP)*

Miami splice

Rome: An Italian aged 29 who had a rare congenital disease has returned to Italy after six transplants — kidney, pancreas, stomach, large intestines, small intestines and liver — at a Miami hospital. *(AP)*

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British to investigate Russian bases

BY MICHAEL EVANS, DEFENCE CORRESPONDENT

TWO Russian military bases are to be investigated this week by a British arms control inspection team searching for violations of an international treaty which is causing friction between Moscow and the West.

Although Russia is committed to implementing the Conventional Forces in Europe Treaty, signed by 30 countries in 1990 and enforced since 1992, Moscow is insisting on keeping more tanks and heavy guns in the North Caucasus than is permitted under the agreement.

The British team has warned Moscow of its proposed arrival later today but without notifying the Russians of the bases selected for inspection. Codenamed Operation Finbar, the random check by an 11-strong team is part of the Western effort to ensure that Russia is complying with the conventional arms reductions agreed under the treaty.

Unprecedented access granted under the treaty will enable the British officers and non-commissioned officers to inspect and photograph any of the "treaty-limited equipment" found at the two bases. The Russians have borne the brunt of the equipment destruction demands laid down by the treaty and have eliminated more than 10,000 items in the five categories — main battle tanks, artillery, armoured combat vehicles, attack helicopters and combat aircraft. They have also destroyed 7,000 more items of equipment east of the Urals, a region which is not covered by the treaty.

By comparison, Britain has only had to destroy 200 items, most of which were ageing Chieftain tanks, out of the 31,000 pieces of equipment eliminated by the 30 signatories to the treaty.

Although the Russians have complied with the overall limits set by the treaty and have become increasingly co-operative and at ease with visiting Western inspection teams, Moscow remains adamant that it must have the freedom to deploy a heavy presence of tanks and guns in the North Caucasus where Russia faces its most serious security challenges from former Soviet republics. The treaty sets zonal as well as national limits and Russia is now technically in breach of the treaty, although Western governments are largely sympathetic to Moscow's cry that its security priorities have changed significantly. Last year General Vladimir Semyonov, commander of Russian ground troops, said that a new 58th Army would be set up in the North Caucasus. "The interests of security and the wholeness of Russia must have priority over the articles in this treaty."

However, the British inspection team from the Joint Arms Control Implementation Group (Jacig), based at RAF Scampton in Lincolnshire, is not involved in the politics of the treaty's enforcement. Their job this week will be to ensure that the appropriate number of items from the five categories are located at the two bases selected for inspection and to report any violations. Headed by Lieutenant-Colonel Henk de Jager, a Royal Marine, the Jacig team will carry no weapons, but will be equipped with a satellite-linked global positioning system.

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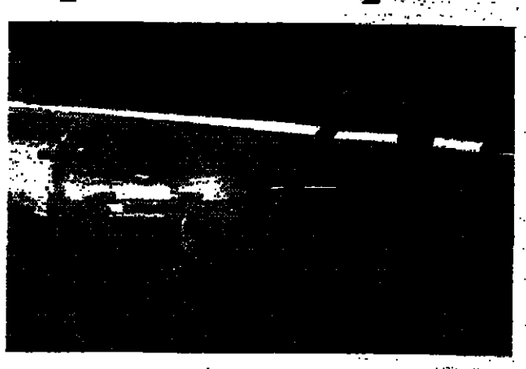
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RUGBY LEAGUE



24 Salford bring Wigan's cup run to abrupt end

FOOTBALL



29 Colombian blends into Keegan's wider scheme

RUGBY UNION



32 Andrew kick-starts Newcastle plan to join elite

ATHLETICS



37 Britons step up bids for indoor records

TIMES SPORT

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12 1996



Francis, at 6ft 7in the tallest player in the League, presents Dorigo, of Leeds United, with a considerable challenge during the 2-1 defeat for Birmingham City at St Andrew's. Photograph: Marc Aspland

World Cup opens in fitting style

FROM ALAN LEE, CRICKET CORRESPONDENT IN CALCUTTA

THERE was no end, yesterday, to the impasse casting shadows over the cricket World Cup and Australia and West Indies must now forfeit two points for refusing to play in Colombo. There was, however, a beginning to the competition proper with the opening ceremony here.

The teams were not brought here without motive. Jagmohan Dalmiya, driving force of the organising committee, is a Bengali and the launch has been part of his vision. It had its drawbacks, such as the fact that Calcutta lies a minimum of 850 miles from the initial games of each team, but it was still an inspired choice. "Share the magic" is the catchphrase of the competition: in Calcutta's crowded streets, there is no choice.

On Saturday, the city was brought to a standstill by a cavalcade. There were 200 motorcycles and 20 floats and the idea was that they would proceed to Eden Gardens in three hours. They arrived more than three hours late.

The thousands of beggars who have habitually lined the pavements of Calcutta have been cleared for the pageantry of the Cup, hundreds of thieves have been arrested in the area of the team hotels and what is quaintly known as the police anti-rowdy squad was out in force yesterday.

Apart from the usual logistical problems in India — England's party had to be up by 4am today and will not arrive at their Ahmedabad destination until 8pm — the players are enjoying the camaraderie of it all. On Saturday, Shane Warne was having a poolside chat with his South African pal, Jonty Rhodes, when a shy coloured lad approached. It was Paul Adams, eager to meet his hero. Warne cheerfully obliged.

England remain hounded by injuries, Neil Fairbrother requiring four stitches in a headwound yesterday after colliding with a fence at practice, but they are treating the tumult of life here with a practiced phlegmatism. More than 100,000 packed Eden Gardens yesterday and the show passed off peacefully, even the apprehensive Australians treated to polite applause. The choreography was stunning but, even here, the show met its banana skins. In atmospheric darkness, a laser impression of the Cup itself was supposed to blaze from a giant screen. Instead, it spun and lurched drunkenly. Organisers blamed the wind: given the events of the past week, they may consider it was symbolic.

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

ICC stalemate 25
Four-page guide 33-36

Fry faces tough task to lift Birmingham

Yeboah carries Leeds halfway to Wembley

Birmingham City 1
Leeds United 2

BY ROB HUGHES
FOOTBALL CORRESPONDENT

THE return of Tony Yeboah galvanised Leeds United to within a game of their first Wembley cup final since 1973. In a Coca-Cola Cup first leg that paid no heed to football's excuse that semi-finals are crippled by fear, Yeboah's ability to score once, and then to panic Chris Whyte, the former Leeds defender, into an own goal, hauled Leeds back from the threat of a defeat which, under the tenacious and passionate Birmingham City assaults, they had faced for half the game.

When you visit St Andrew's, you must throw dice in Barry Fry's casino. The Birmingham manager has such a restless soul, such a gambler's instinct, and such a compulsive habit of buying and borrowing players, that the only thing you can anticipate is that his team will attack on all fronts.

Yesterday, he included a goalkeeper called Bart, a young man plucked from non-league football in Holland on the recommendation of one of Fry's former players when he was manager of Barnet. A telephone call here, a nod there, is enough for this rapacious wheeler and dealer.

Others in the team included John Sheridan, the director of midfield, making his debut in a loan period from Sheffield Wednesday, and then there was Jonathan Bass, 20, playing only the second senior game of his life because Birmingham, already without Bennett, their injured first-team goalkeeper, so ill-timed their suspensions that three of the first-choice defenders were also obliged to be bystanders.

One constant, only one in Birmingham's 11 Coca-Cola Cup games, has been Steve Claridge. He, the epitome of the tireless worker, the hungry fellow who has no respect for men of a supposedly higher class, began almost everything that Birmingham threw at Leeds. His first shot, from 20 yards, surprised Lukic; it was delivered on the turn, either optimism or sheer cheek at its extreme, but floated fractionally wide of the far angle between post and bar.

Claridge refused to be suppressed. In the 25th minute, he created the opening goal for Kevin Francis. It was something of a role reversal, for Francis is a bean pole of 6ft 7in, a basketball figure on the cloying mud of St Andrew's.

Yet it was Claridge who leapt in the air to beat Wetherall, winning the ball from Sheridan's perceptive pass, and dropping it behind the centre back for the rangy Francis to run on and then, with an explosive right-foot shot from outside the penalty area, beat Lukic comprehensively.

We had already seen two elements that no Birmingham City stalwart wanted: a coin, or some other object, had been thrown at McAllister from a lunatic in the crowd, a lunatic who jeopardises Birmingham's future because the club is already on probation after previous crowd trouble.

The other unwanted element? The sheer class of McAllister. He had shown his annoyance with Palmer for failing in his duties as one of the anchor players in front of the defence, and momentarily McAllister pointedly took up that position. He might as well perform that task, too, for he was prepared to be defender getting his body in the way of the ball, midfield creator and auxiliary forward, bursting into attack alongside Yeboah.

Eventually, the composure of Leeds, against the sheer hunger of Birmingham, brought reward. In the 53rd minute, Lukic kicked the ball long out of his hands, the diminutive Wallace jumped to flick it on with his head, Johnson allowed it to run beneath his foot, and, lurking behind him, was the one deadly finisher you do not leave unmarked. Yeboah simply drilled the ball past the stranded, startled Griemink.

After that, the wheel of fortune spun from one side to the other. The greater number of chances fell to Birmingham and were spurned by Francis and by Hunt and Bowen, one of the substitutes.

Eventually, against the run of play, and laced with cruel misfortune, Birmingham succumbed. The winning goal stemmed from the athleticism of Kelly.

Down the right flank, he chased a ball that others would have given up as lost, he reached it right at the corner flag and, wonderfully, he turned and whipped in a centre measured for the head of Yeboah. The Ghanaian's contact was not of his usual calibre, the ball travelled down into the mud, but it struck Whyte, rose up again, and looped mockingly into the net past poor Griemink.

Leeds had done it without Brolin, a multimillion pound foreigner fit but not in favour. Fry insisted: "It ain't all over yet." However, when the second leg is played on February 25, Leeds will be clear favourites . . . unless that man Fry is planning another couple of loan players, say Yeboah and McAllister, for his squad.

BIRMINGHAM CITY (4-4-2): B Griemink — J Bass, C Whyte, M Johnson, J Frain — J Hunt, J Sheridan (sub: J Bowen, 77min), R Forsyth (sub: L Donowa, 66), G Cooper (sub: R Otto, 66) — K Francis, S Claridge.
LEEDS UNITED (4-2-3-1): J Lukic — G Kelly, D Wetherall, P Beesley, T Dorigo — C Palmer, M Ford (sub: L Rodaba, 89) — R Wallace (sub: B Deane, 85), G McAllister; G Speed — T Yeboah.
Referee: K Cooper (Pontypridd).

Cantona's sparkle puts Cole and Shearer in shade 26
Liverpool victory maintains pressure on leaders 27

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'Our Sal' tempts ITV cameras back indoors



MATTHEW BOND

TV ACTION REPLAY

Ten days ago, the future for athletics as a television sport was looking bleaker than ever. Not even the presence of the two biggest names in British athletics had tempted the cameras to Birmingham for the AAA indoor championships. You had to read your morning newspapers to discover that, while Sally Gunnell had come second in the 400 metres, Linford Christie had pulled up injured.

On Saturday, athletics began to fight back. The venue was the National Indoor Arena again, the event was the British leg of the richly-endowed Ricoh Tour, and the results, produced by a field of world-class competitors, will have had broadcasting executives scurrying for the calculators. What they will have been trying to work out, however, is not how much to pay for television coverage of athletics, but how little.

The days of television channels writing promoters blank cheques have long gone, but high-quality meetings, such as this, show that indoor athletics can still make for a very enjoyable afternoon's television — provided that you have a sufficiently star-studded field. Birmingham did and was rewarded with the presence of ITV and Eurosport. They, in turn, were rewarded with a world record (Maria Mutola in the 1,000 metres), a British and Commonwealth record (Ashia Hansen in the women's triple jump) and an impressive win by Tony Jarrett.

Yet, however distinguished their efforts, none of these athletes was deemed to have the sort of box office appeal required by audience-chasing ITV. The highlight of the afternoon, according to Jim Rosenthal, the anchorman, was "the televised return of Our Sal". From that moment on, it was Gunnell with everything — on the treatment table, running, being interviewed . . . the works.

Eurosport needs no persuading of the merits of athletics on television — Birmingham was the second of five indoor meetings that it is covering in six days. With a globe-trotting summer ahead, Tim Hutchings and Steve Cram, the channel's commentators, are probably rather relieved that they are covering these indoor meetings from the warmth and satellite-linked comfort of their Paris studios.

Yet it does have its drawbacks. On Saturday, for instance, Eurosport began its Birmingham coverage 15 minutes earlier than ITV, allowing it to follow the top-class women's triple jump from the outset. With Hansen, Inessa Kravets and Iva Prandzheva all competing, it looked a good decision (especially as ITV played catch-up with recordings slotted between track events), but, somewhere along the line, the perils of long-distance commentary caught up with them.

It was the fifth round. Prandzheva was on the runway. "Ignore that caption," Cram said confidently. The caption said that the lead was held at 14.58 metres, but Cram disagreed. According to him, the lead was held by Prandzheva's jump of 14.56 metres. Sadly, the caption was right and Cram was wrong — somehow, the satellite channel had managed to miss Hansen's winning and record-breaking jump altogether. That, though, was an uncharacteristic slip from a channel that can justifiably claim to be the home of athletics. The question is for how much longer? The European Broadcasting Union (EBU) has declined to meet the considerable sum for television coverage of International Amateur Athletic Federation meetings for the next four years sought by Primo Nebiolo, its president.

The EBU, which has close and complex links with Eurosport, has offered a much smaller sum. The present impasse leaves the negotiating door open to anyone taking a more optimistic view of the future of athletics on television. ITV is said to be considering it — but only, presumably, if it includes "Our Sal".

Salford end Wigan's game of monopoly

Salford	26
Wigan	16

BY CHRISTOPHER IRVINE

IT WAS like the curtain coming down on *The Mousetrap*. Nine years and 43 unbeaten matches since Wigan's last defeat in the Silk Cut Challenge Cup, way back at Oldham in February 1987, the most successful run in rugby league or, indeed, British team sport history, was dramatically and abruptly ended by Salford yesterday.

As with all the teams that tried and failed to knock Wigan from their pedestal, Salford were given virtually no chance. An hour after an extraordinary upset, people were still gathered in and around the Willows Ground, Salford supporters pinching themselves and Wigan's large following in a state of disbelief that their annual appointment at Wembley in April is cancelled this year.

Salford, the first division champions, rose majestically to the occasion. Steve Blakeley, an inspirational man-of-the-match in attack, and Scott Naylor, scorer of two of Salford's four tries, were once on Wigan's books. Steve Hampson, another Wigan old boy, made an outstanding defensive contribution in an overall display of superb collective will.

As a player, Andy Gregory won five Challenge Cup winner's medals with Wigan. As coach of Salford, his smile was broad, proud and mischievous. "We won a round, that's all," he said; but Gregory was fooling nobody. His side had achieved history on a day when Wigan, finally, met their match and shrank from the task.

Wigan, as subdued afterwards as they were in the game, were gracious in defeat, but, as phenomenal as their stranglehold on the game's oldest and most-cherished prize was, the discovery of their mortality can only be for the greater good of the sport. The script was a tired and predictable one, and the shocking twist yesterday, after Wigan's eight successive Challenge Cup victories, could not have been better timed on the eve of Super League and the move to summer.

Times are changing, and a lessening of one team's dominance can only be an encouragement to those sides used to trailing in the Wigan slipstream. Wigan had survived so many white-knuckle rides down the years in the Challenge Cup as to imagine they might survive another.

Yet the intensity with which Salford burned in the first half did not relent. In a rumbustious Salford pack, Forber typified the spirit in their ranks, with his surges up the middle and last-ditch defence. When Wigan got even a half-break, Forber was there to snuff out the danger. This intensified as Wigan clawed back to 20-10, but fell away when Lee dummied the Wigan cover and Martin slotted into the gap.

Whereas apparently irretrievable situations, at Hull and Halifax in recent years, were rescued, Salford proved too stubborn and Wigan, unusually, lacked the will and skill. It is a rare occurrence that none of their cylinders should fire, but Wigan have rarely been so rattled as they were by the head-on force with which they were met from the fifth minute. Lee's kick caused panic in the Wigan ranks and Young pounced on the free ball.

Wigan could not achieve any leverage in attack and left themselves wide open at the back. The irrepressible Blakeley ripped through the middle to initiate the next try, by Naylor, and later sent over the third of his five goals. Wigan needed three scores to go ahead, and immediately picked up one, as Connolly found Tuigamala lurking on the wing. On the stroke of half-time, this might have dealt Salford a psychological blow.

Instead, it had the reverse effect. Naylor jinked over for his second try, after a fine build-up by Blakeley and Forber, whereupon Wigan threw everything at Salford. Offiah found a way through, but, in holding out for two subsequent sets of six tackles on their line, Salford turned the tide.

Martin's try was the decisive score, and Blakeley and Rogers had others disallowed before Tuigamala's consolation score.

SCORERS: Salford: Tries: Naylor (2), Young, Martin. Goals: Blakeley (5). Wigan: Tries: Tuigamala (2), Offiah. Goals: Paul, Farrell.

SALFORD: S Hampson; N McAvoy, S Naylor, S Martin, D Rogers; S Blakeley, M Lee; D Young, P Edwards, C Eccles, P Forber, L Sawale, S Panapa (sub: A Burgess, 18min).

WIGAN: G Connolly, J Robinson, V Tuigamala, K Redfearn, M Offiah; H Paul, S Edwards; N Cowie (sub: O'Connor, 50), M Hall, T O'Connor (sub: K Skerrett, 28), S Quinnell, S Haughton (sub: A Craig, 51), A Farrell.

Referee: D Campbell.

SIMON WILKINSON



Martin, the Salford try-scorer, charges at the Wigan defence during his side's extraordinary victory yesterday

WIGAN'S EIGHT-YEAR 35-GAME RUN

1988: 1st rd: bt Bradford 2-0 (h); 2nd: bt Leeds 30-14 (h), 3rd: bt Widnes 10-1 (h), s-f: bt Salford 34-4; final: bt Halifax 32-12.
1989: 1st: bt Doncaster (a) 38-8; 2nd: bt Bradford 17-4 (a), 3rd: bt Oldham 12-4 (a); s-f: bt Warrington 13-5, final: bt St Helens 27-0
1990: 1st: bt Hull KR 8-4 (a); 2nd: bt Dewsbury 30-6 (h), 3rd: bt Wakefield 26-14 (a), s-f: bt St Helens 20-14, final: bt Warrington 36-14.
1991: 1st: bt C'lord 28-4 (a); 2nd: bt Rochdale 72-4 (a), 3rd: bt Bradford 32-2 (h), s-f: bt Oldham 30-16; final: bt St Helens 13-8.
1992: 1st: bt Salford 22-6 (a), 2nd: bt Warrington 14-0 (h), 3rd: bt St Helens 13-6 (a); s-f: bt Bradford 71-10; final: bt Castleford 28-12.
1993: Pre rd: bt Hull 40-2 (h); 1st: bt Dewsbury 20-4 (a); 2nd: bt St Helens 23-3 (h); 3rd: bt Halifax 19-18 (a); s-f: bt Bradford 15-6, final: bt Widnes 20-14.
1994: 4th: bt Wakefield 24-18 (h); 5th: bt Hull 22-21 (a), q-f: bt Featherstone 32-14 (h); s-f: bt Castleford 20-8; final: bt Leeds 28-16.
1995: 4th: draw with St Helens 16-16 (h); won replay 40-24 (a); 5th: bt Batley 70-4; q-f: bt Widnes 28-12 (a); s-f: bt Oldham 48-20; final: bt Leeds 30-10
1996: 4th: bt Bramley 74-12; 5th: lost 28-16 to Salford (a)

Hendry steps up early pressure

BY PHIL YATES

STEPHEN HENDRY paid Ronnie O'Sullivan the ultimate compliment in establishing a commanding 6-2 lead over the finest natural talent in snooker in the final of the Benson and Hedges Masters at Wembley Conference Centre yesterday.

If Hendry, the world champion, attempting to capture the title for the sixth time in eight years, has an Achilles heel, it is the tendency, despite his deep reserves of experience, to occasionally take on ill-advised pots; yet, against O'Sullivan, a player for whom he has a healthy respect, moments of recklessness from him were non-existent.

The first frame set a pattern that the afternoon's play was to follow. Getting the better of a protracted tactical exchange, Hendry extracted 23 penalty points from O'Sullivan, the title-holder, before making a decisive break of 71 when afforded a scoring chance.

O'Sullivan, not handicapped by the bruised ligaments in his right foot that had caused such problems during the previous two rounds, won the second frame with a run of 62 and the third thanks to a last-red-to-pink clearance before he opened a 48-1 lead in the fourth.

However, just as a 3-1 lead for O'Sullivan was looming, he missed a difficult red to a middle pocket. Hendry levelled at 2-2 with a composed clearance of 77 and the momentum shift was complete when he added the fifth in similar circumstances.

O'Sullivan had nobody to blame but himself. At 40-13, he missed a simple blue off its spot to a middle pocket, Hendry replied with 44 and secured the frame when O'Sullivan horrendously misjudged an attempted snooker on the final red.

So disconsolate after losing two such frames in succession, O'Sullivan's challenge crumbled during the remainder of the session and Hendry was left needing just four of the last 11 frames to record his 28th win in 30 matches at the Masters, collect a first prize of £125,000 and achieve his 58th tournament win in 11 years as a professional.

On Saturday, O'Sullivan had benefited from an appalling performance by Andy Hicks to win their semi-final; Hendry beat Alan McManus to exceed £4.5 million in total career prize-money.

THE TIMES
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Foster pulls ahead of great rival

FROM CRAIG LORD IN GELSENKIRCHEN

PAUL PALMER and James Hickman produced national records to secure two of Great Britain's four victories in the final round of the swimming World Cup here in Germany over the weekend. Palmer was successful in the 800 metres freestyle and Hickman in the 200 metres butterfly, the latter setting a second British record when finishing third in the 100 metres event.

Yet it was the victory that did not produce a record that may yet count for more with the Olympic Games in Atlanta only months away. Mark Foster registering his second defeat in five days of Alexander Popov, of Russia, the Olympic champion and world record-holder.

Popov has been beaten over 50 metres freestyle by only two men since 1991, twice by Raimundas Majuolis and the other four times by Foster.

The Briton, 25, who held the world record before Popov and who had claimed victory in the 50 metres butterfly on Saturday, tired in the closing ten metres of the final yesterday, but held on to win in 21.30sec with Popov second in 21.92sec.

Palmer, of Lincoln, is also a medal hope this summer, a prospect all the rosier after his victory yesterday in 7min 46.25sec ahead of Jorg Hoffmann, of Germany, the former world champion.

With the Olympic trials next month, Hickman provided convincing evidence of his promise with his victory on Saturday, finishing in 1min 55.67sec.

Willison shines in Sun City

BY OUR SPORTS STAFF

RICKY WILLISON, the former Walker Cup golfer, scored 68, the best round of the day, to earn a share of second place behind Mark McNulty, of Zimbabwe, in the Dimension Data pro-am tournament in Sun City, South Africa, yesterday.

It was a marvellous achievement by Willison, 36, from Middlesex, who tied with Nick Price, the Zimbabwean who is ranked No 2 in the world, and Brenden Pappas, of South Africa. They finished four shots adrift of McNulty, for whom this was the first tournament victory since the BMW International in Munich in 1994.

McNulty could manage only a 73, one over par, during his final round, played in driving rain, but the one-shot lead that he held overnight was not threatened.

"It was so hard out there, it was easy to forget there was a tournament to be won," McNulty said. "I've played something like 12 tournaments here, including seven Million Dollar Challenges, and cannot remember a round like this. With the tough pin placements, it became par golf instead of birdie golf and when you did make par it was a hell of a feat.

"The shot which won the tournament was my chip in for birdie at the 15th — until then, anything could have happened."

Ian Woosnam, who was seeking his third successive European Tour victory after wins in Singapore and Australia, recorded a 71 — his best round of the tournament — to finish nine shots behind McNulty in fourteenth place.

Meanwhile, Laura Davies, of Great Britain, ranked No 1 in the world in women's golf, was the only player to offer any resistance to John Daly as he dominated the final day of the Australian Skins event at Sanctuary Cove on Queensland's Gold Coast. Daly won five holes outright to take his earnings to £52,000.

Davies, the first woman to play in a such an important skins event, was able to bring a temporary halt to Daly's run of success, by winning £4,000 at the par-five 11th and £6,500 overall. She regularly drove the ball further than Tom Watson and Peter Senior, the defending champion, her partners. Watson, who won two skins on the previous day, was unable to add to his earnings and finished with £14,000, while Senior earned just £2,500.

Daly won the first skin of the day with a par at the 10th, and followed that with successes at the 12th, 16th, where he won with a putt from around 27 feet for a birdie, 17th and 18th, where he won with a closest-to-the-pin tie-breaker. "This game is a whole lot of fun, particularly when you are winning," he said.

Nicklaus considers end of an Open era

JACK NICKLAUS'S remarkable record of having played in every major golf championship since the 1962 Masters has to end soon and, at a press conference in Florida today, he is expected to announce that it could be this year (John Hopkins writes). The Open at Royal Lytham and St Annes in July could be the tournament that brings an end to Nicklaus's appearance in 148 successive majors.

Nicklaus will say today that he will not compete at Lytham, in what would be his 39th Open, unless he plays well at the Masters in April and/or the US Open in June and, if he does not, the streak will officially end. "Everything has to end some time," Nicklaus said on Saturday night, "and while I still have the ability to play a little bit, I thought this would be a good time to end it."

Followers of golf have anticipated such an announcement from Nicklaus, who was 56 on January 21. He has not been playing well enough to be competitive in major championships for some time. In the Nineties, Nicklaus has missed the cut in eight of the past 16 major championships and only once finished in the top ten — he came sixth in the 1990 Masters. The 1996 Masters is the tenth anniversary of his last major championship win.

Last summer, he said that the 1996 US Open would probably be his last on a regular basis. "There are people playing better than I am playing and they deserve to be playing more than I do," he said. "I've been kind of realising that I should have done this a year or two earlier."

□ Todd Barranger, of the United States, shot a 68, four under par, to clinch the Thailand Open in Sri Racha yesterday. Barranger finished with a total of 271, five strokes ahead of Rob Moss.

McRae settles for place on podium

COLIN McRAE opened the defence of his world rally championship by finishing third in the Swedish Rally yesterday. Tommi Makinen, of Finland, who led almost throughout the race, hung on to clinch victory in his Mitsubishi Lancer just ahead of Carlos Sainz, driving a Ford Escort, even though he had to plough tracks for his rivals through fresh snow. Sainz, of Spain, in his first race for Ford, almost snatched the lead on the last stage, but a broken shock absorber forced him to settle for second place.

McRae was disappointed afterwards. "It could have been better," he said. "If the tyres had been all right, we could have won. It's a bit frustrating, but at least we got some points." It was, nevertheless, a better performance than last season, when he failed to finish the event. This year, in his Subaru Impreza, he finished 1min 05sec behind the winner, just ahead of Juha Kankkunen, of Finland.

Britons enjoy success

JUDO: Great Britain won two medals at the Paris international tournament on Saturday. Diane Bell took silver in the under-61 kilogram division, losing to Ileana Beltran, of Cuba. Bell was overpowered by Beltran, who eventually caught her with a perfectly-timed counter to win the match. Cheryl Peel, Britain's other contestant in the division, was fifth.

Danny Kingston won a bronze medal in the under-71 kilogram division, defeating Ferrid Kheder, of France, with a leg grab. Yesterday, British players failed to shine, but Pawel Nastula, of Poland, the world champion in the over-95 kilogram division, showed his class by defeating Pedro Soares, of Portugal, with a shoulder throw inside 20 seconds.

Morrison suspended



BOXING: Tommy Morrison, right, the former World Boxing Organisation heavyweight champion, was "medically suspended" for unspecified reasons by the Nevada Athletic Commission hours before he was due to meet Arthur Weathers in Las Vegas on Saturday. Marc Ratner, the executive director of the state body, said that legal constraints prevented him from saying more.

Bison hopes fade

ICE HOCKEY: Sheffield Steelers and Cardiff Devils strengthened their grip at the top of the premier division of the British League with wins at Basingstoke Bison and Milton Keynes Kings, respectively, while Nottingham Panthers lost ground, beaten at home by the improving Newcastle Warriors. If Basingstoke do not get their injured players back soon, they are in danger of missing the play-offs. In the first division, Manchester Storm and Blackburn Hawks won yet again and Manchester need only two points to make the title a certainty.

Leopards' spot of bother

BASKETBALL: The Budweiser League was effectively reduced to a two-horse race, between London Towers and Sheffield Sharks, after two defeats in 24 hours for the Leopards. The second of those defeats, by 86-80, was away to Worthing Bears on Saturday. Alan Cunningham scored 36 points for the Bears. Manchester Giants exploited the absence through suspension of Scott Paterson in the Newcastle Comets line-up to gain the biggest win of the weekend, 111-56 in the Nynex Arena.

Bomb delays Dunstan

BOXING: Frank Warren's promotion, due to be staged at the London Arena on Saturday, was postponed in the wake of the disruption around the Docklands venue caused by the IRA bomb blast. It will now be staged a short distance across east London, at York Hall, Bethnal Green, tomorrow. Tickets purchased for the event, the highlight of which is Terry Dunstan's defence of his British cruiserweight title against Dennis Andries, the veteran former world champion, will be valid.

Norman clinches title



GOLF: Greg Norman, right, won the Ford Open championship in Adelaide yesterday, one stroke ahead of Jean-Louis Guepy, of France. Norman finished the tournament with a total of 284, four under par, to clinch victory despite being nine shots off the pace after 36 holes of the par-72 Kooyonga Golf Club course. Glenn Joyner tied for third with Peter O'Malley, his fellow Australian, on 286.

Male wins Open title

RACKETS: James Male, the world champion, won the Lacoste British Open championship at Queen's Club, London, yesterday, beating Neil Smith 15-10, 15-2, 15-1, 15-10 in the final. Male produced a string of unreturnable winners down the walls and retrieved superbly from all over the court. It was only towards the end of the fourth game that Smith began to show flashes of his own majestic power when the nearest he got to Male was to trail 10-12. Male's response, however, was simply to raise the pace.

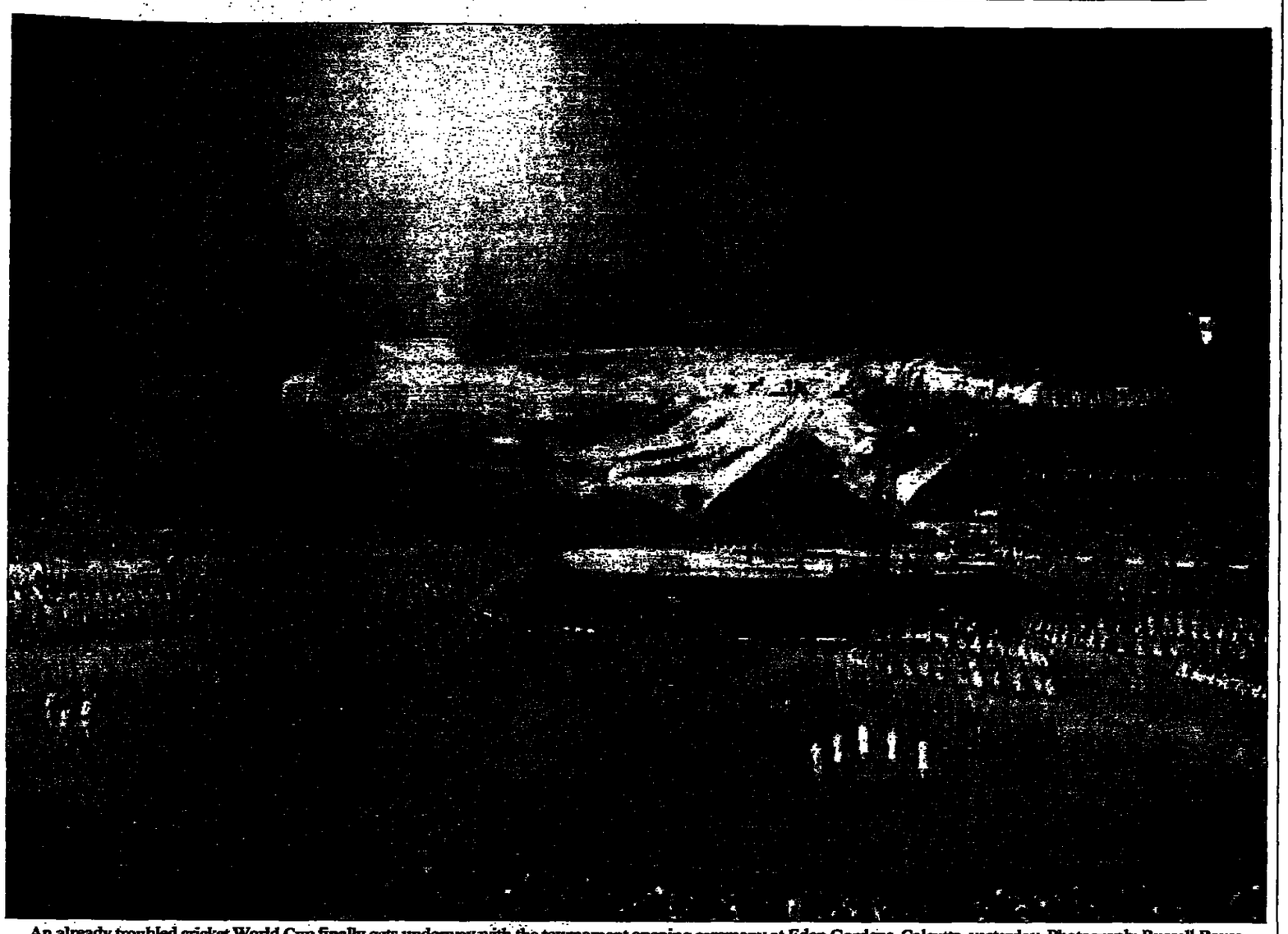
SNOW REPORTS

	Depth (cm) L	U	Conditions Piste	Off/p	Runs to resort	Weather (5pm)	°C	Last snow
AUSTRIA								
Obergurgl	40	90	good	varied	good	fair	-8	8/2
(Resort fully open; excellent great skiing on all pistes)								
Saalbach	30	60	fair	varied	icy	fine	2	9/2
(All 63 lifts open; best skiing on north-facing slopes)								
St Anton	25	130	fair	varied	open	snow	-2	10/2
(All 42 lifts open; good though some worn areas)								
FRANCE								
Les Arcs	50	180	good	powder	good	cloud	-4	11/2
(Excellent despite poor visibility; 69 of 77 lifts open)								
Megève	25	105	good	varied	open	snow	0	11/2
(Much-improved pistes; visibility poor; 36 of 41 lifts open)								
Val d'Isère	85	130	good	powder	good	cloud	-4	11/2
(Visibility poor though snow excellent; 47 of 49 lifts open)								
SWITZERLAND								
Grindelwald	15	55	good	varied	open	cloud	0	11/2
(Much improved; more snow forecast; nine of ten lifts open)								
Mürren	25	110	good	crust	fair	snow	-1	11/2
(All 13 lifts open; fresh snow improving lower slopes)								
Villars	20	65	good	varied	closed	fine	4	11/2
(Fresh powder on hard base; 17 of 23 lifts open)								

Source: Ski Club of Great Britain. L - lower slopes; U - upper.

هكذا من الأصل

Australia and West Indies prefer forfeit to Colombo fixtures



An already troubled cricket World Cup finally gets underway with the tournament opening ceremony at Eden Gardens, Calcutta, yesterday. Photograph: Russell Boyce

Sri Lanka win points not matches



Alan Lee, in Calcutta, reports on a World Cup stalemate that will rest heavy on cricket's conscience

SEVEN hours of debate here this weekend failed to break the deadlock threatening the harmony and balance of the cricket World Cup, which opened last night with a curious cocktail of celebration and recrimination. Australia and West Indies, intransigent in their refusal to visit Colombo, have consequently forfeited their games against Sri Lanka, who will, by way of compensation for loss of revenue, stage a goodwill match against a combined India and Pakistan side in Colombo tomorrow.

The matter will not end there. An emergency session of the International Cricket Council (ICC), spanning Saturday afternoon and yesterday morning, failed in its mediating purpose and stopped only just short of the length and acrimony of the nine-hour meeting three years ago, at which the venue of this competition was bought and sold. Now, as then, the setting was formal, but the atmosphere more rancorous than decorous. Now, as then, the ramifications are unlimited.

Although Australia and West Indies are to continue in the competition with the putative loss of no more than two points — both should still qualify for the last eight — further penalties will inevitably follow. Some of these may be financial. Others will become apparent through the response of the rest of the cricket community to what some see as the selfish sabotage of this event.

Many options were investigated during the weekend and India even offered to play Kenya as an initial match in Colombo, from which the security situation could then be assessed. West Indies and Australia, who have been guided throughout by government advice on the safety issue, declined to reconsider their decision — intractability matched, on the other side, by a refusal to alter the Cup schedule in any way.

The fury of Pilcom, the organising committee, at the attitude of the defaulting countries is reflected by the Indian media and, through it, the public. The teams withdrew from their Colombo commitments because safety could not be guaranteed. Australia, at least, had good reason to do so; but they must now prepare themselves for possible hostility wherever they play. Australia, with ten days to fill before that happens, were last night planning to fly to Bombay for practice.

The press conference, yesterday, to confirm the unsatisfactory resolution featured an increasingly apoplectic performance by Jagmohan Dalmiya, the Pilcom convenor, encouraged by questions from the floor accusing Australia and West Indies of anything from cowardice to racism. At one point, the cry went up that it was all "a conspiracy against the Third World", a theme abandoned only when it was pointed out that the Third World also includes West Indies.

The ICC is also widely being accused of weak-kneed incompetence, which is unfair. Weak it most certainly is, as was regretfully acknowledged yesterday by Sir Clyde Walcott, its chairman, but the weaknesses are not in the intentions and commitment of its officers, but in its constitution.

The ICC is merely the sum of its constituents and, when they fall out among themselves, there is no executive power available to arbitrate. Until that is established, the game will remain a hostage to the sort of circumstances that are now blighting this tournament.

"There is a need for the ICC to have more clout," Sir Clyde said. "The time has come in this cricketing world when some organisation above the cricket boards should have the power to make decisions. At present, that power does not exist. I certainly don't have the authority to tell countries whether they must play or not.

"I was here only to guide and moderate. There was nothing more I could do."

Neither, clearly, was there anything that Pilcom could do, for the rules it had compiled for the competition made no provision for teams opting out of fixtures to be coerced or even eliminated. "Sometimes you learn from a mistake," Dalmiya said, mournfully.

"I never anticipated this happening, because it has never happened in cricket before. Countries staging future World Cups may like to frame their rules differently."

Sir Clyde evidently has some sympathy with the stance of the Australians and his own West Indian countrymen. "They acted upon information from reliable sources," he said, adding what sounded like a note of reproach to the tournament organisers. "Unfortunately, Pilcom did not agree to reschedule the fixtures so that two alternative games could go to Sri Lanka."

However, Dalmiya was unrepentant. "Pilcom was not convinced there was a need for rescheduling," he said. "We were prepared to hold matches in an empty ground or to helicopter the teams in from India. It is still not too late for them to reconsider these options and match the solidarity shown by Kenya and Zimbabwe in going ahead with their games in Sri Lanka."

Almost inevitably, the bombing in London's Docklands on Friday night was held up by Indian journalists as an analogy, Dalmiya and Arif Abassi, his Pakistani counterpart, being quizzed as to whether their teams might now withdraw from the scheduled tours of England this summer. Both dismissed the possibility, Dalmiya pointing out: "A bomb went off during the first World Cup in England and no teams withdrew. Bombs have gone off during ICC meetings and no one has withdrawn."

The differences here, of course, are that Australian players were personally threatened, some with death, by fanatics in Sri Lanka (and Pakistan) and that they, and West Indies, had the opportunity to judge the Colombo situation before setting off.

They have acted prudently, but those who believe the caution to be excessive include at least one of their own. Ian Chappell, a former Australia captain, here as a television commentator, is appalled at the concession of a game.

"Forfeit is a dirty word to me," he said. "I couldn't bring myself to give away a game of cricket in any circumstances."

It should not have been necessary. If Pilcom had acted with foresight rather than obstinacy, relocating the games as soon as trouble loomed, Sri Lanka could have been recompensed out of the additional revenue. That option has now been sacrificed, along with the integrity of the whole competition, for, while Sri Lanka have lost in many ways, they have already gained four points without playing, a potentially significant anomaly that will forever be on the conscience of this event.



Steve Waugh, the Australia all-rounder, arrives in Calcutta with security guards in close attendance

WILLS WORLD CUP 1996

Who will be the world champions of one-day cricket? Alan Lee, Simon Wilde, John Woodcock and Michael Henderson look ahead to a competition already riven by controversy but still full of exciting possibilities.
Our four-page guide starts on page 33

Test of nerve restores Hakkinen to racing trim

Oliver Holt, in Estoril, on a driver's fightback from deathbed to racetrack

Mika Hakkinen hid his bloodshot eyes behind a pair of dark glasses here yesterday the way that a boxer does when he has been bruised by an opponent's punches. His own fight, three months ago to the day, lasted little more than a split-second and the concrete wall at the Australian Grand Prix in Adelaide was always going to be the winner. Yesterday, though, he made his first public appearance since the crash that nearly killed him and announced happily that he was coming back for more.

He spoke of sitting behind the wheel again with the joy of a learner driver who has just passed his test, thrilled by the simplest things. People whom he once considered colleagues have become friends. "Life became my priority, not work, work, work," he said. "I saw that we are all human beings, not machines, and that we have to think of other people sometimes." Behind the glasses, he is seeing more clearly than ever.

At times, of course, he looked thoroughly ill at ease, casting his eyes down at the ground in the face of banks of the photographers who had come here to picture him and David Coulthard, his new team-mate, alongside the new McLaren-Mercedes Formula One car. In the weeks since the accident, he has been protected from the public glare as speculation about whether he would be able to continue racing raged around him.



'The first lap back behind the wheel was wonderful'

His face is thinner than it used to be, certainly, and his manner not quite as assured as it was in the days before his car spun out of control during the first qualifying session for the race on November 10, clipped a kerb and was launched straight into a tyre barrier shielding the wall. He lapsed into a coma and, at the circuit, people said that he would not last the night. Even the more optimistic doubted that he would ever drive again.

Yet he did get through the night and, after a month in hospital with the constant help and support of Ron Dennis, the McLaren managing director to whom he paid tribute, he was allowed home. He began doing a little light running, then some more strenuous fitness work and then more still during a week of intensive physical conditioning in Bali. A week ago, he got back in a Formula One car at a private test in the south of France and went quicker than Michael Schumacher, the world champion, had in a Ferrari a few days earlier.

Now, despite the lingering effects of his injuries, his handshake is as firm as ever and he is insistent that he will take his place on the grid for the first race of the season in Melbourne on March 10. The Mika Hakkinen story is quickly becoming one of those tales of miraculous recovery that professional sportsmen seem so adept at producing.

As they do so often with boxers, some will question why Hakkinen, 27, would want to re-enter a sport that nearly deprived him of his life and one that he admits will undoubtedly cause him to crash again this season. His replies to the stream of questions directed at him at a press conference that reduced the other team personnel to virtual spectators provided all the answers.

"I have to admit that I was a bit nervous when I got back into the car last week," he said. "I was OK at first, but then I was standing next to the car putting on my Balaclava and my gloves and I suddenly realised all the mechanics had gone silent. Usually, in Formula One, there is noise everywhere and a lot happening, but it was completely quiet.

"But then, when I sat in the cockpit and selected first gear and went out into the pit lane, I felt fantastic. I did not feel scared any more and that first lap back behind the wheel was so wonderful. When I shifted up through the gears, it felt so smooth. Braking for the corners, accelerating, just simple things gave me this amazing feeling, this warm feeling. It was as though I had my life back again. This is what I love doing."

Hakkinen has never won a grand prix, but is widely regarded as the possessor of the most raw speed in Formula One. "In fast corners, he is even faster than Schumacher," Martin Brundle, his former colleague, said last week. His reputation was secured when he outqualified the late Ayrton Senna — who was his team-mate at the time — at this circuit in 1993.

Yet his career, which began at Lotus and has spanned 63 races, has also been bedevilled by lapses of concentration and a series of crashes. Hakkinen was entirely blameless in Adelaide, where a puncture sent his car out of control, but he admitted yesterday that he was prepared for more crashes this season.

"You have to accept that, over the course of a normal season, you are going to spin a couple of times and maybe hit the wall," he said. "That is just the way motor racing is. You have to accept it is going to happen to you as well and you just hope it will not be a big one. You just have to make sure you are as fit as you can be so you are prepared for it. By the start of the season, I will be ready. I am going to Melbourne to win."

Leaders assert quality with stylish display

BY SYDNEY FRISKIN

SOUTHGATE played hockey of the highest class yesterday in scoring four goals without reply against Teddington to retain their position as leaders of the National League. It was not that Teddington played badly — they started well and fired several shots at goal — but, in the end, could not match the home side's maturity and confidence.

It was against the run of play when, after 13 minutes, Shaw found the space to create the chance for Woods to open the scoring. Teddington's attempt to equalise was thwarted five minutes later by Cadman, the Southgate goalkeeper, who saved well from Wallis.

A minute before the interval, Waugh forced his way through on the right to score the second goal, and added another in the 59th minute shortly after Conway had missed another chance to put Teddington back into the game. Simon completed the scoring two minutes from the end.

By the end of the day, Cannock, Reading, Old Loughtonians and Guildford were all hot on the heels of Southgate. Crutchley scored two goals for Cannock in a 7-1 away victory over St Albans, one from a short corner. Edwards added two more, also from short corners.

Ian Jennings had a profitable day for Guildford, converting three short corners in a 5-2 home win over Havant. Old Loughtonians remained in the hunt with a 6-0 home victory over Hull, and Reading won 2-0 at home on Saturday against Hounslow, Osborn, from a short corner, and Mark Hoskin scored in the first half.

Barford Tigers, who defeated Bournville 2-1, lost Satinderpal Mann, who was sent off for a second offence in the 56th minute having been temporarily suspended earlier for a tackle. Barford were later reduced to nine men, when Gurmukh Singh was suspended. St Albans, Hull and Stourport, the teams at the bottom of the table, face a fight to stay in the division.

Doncaster's win over Richmond pushed them to third place in the second division.

Kerly falls prey to Richmond's finishing line



Kerly, who is relishing his return to action at Richmond

Simon Barnes on how hockey's great goalscorer was tempted out of retirement for love of the game

Sean Kerly, the hook-billed predator, gold medal-winning hero of Seoul, the man with a better record than Gary Lineker — 109 international goals, 172 caps for England and Great Britain — returned to the English hockey league at the weekend, at the age of 36, trying to help Richmond to get off the bottom of the second division.

In vain, for, unusually, he remained goalless in a 4-1 home defeat by Doncaster. "I think I might have done better in midfield rather than at forward," he said, though he did have a goal disallowed when the score was 1-1.

He had already turned out for Richmond for a cup match, playing for ten minutes, laying one player out cold — "it was an accident, I feel awful about it" — and, yes, scoring a goal. "I flicked it and it went in, totally unexpected," he said.

Or, to put it another way, totally predictable: Kerly was the one who always scored all the goals. He did lots of dogged and hard-running team things, too, but anybody with fitness and commitment could do them: and there were — are — many hockey things that he cannot do at all.

"There were always a lot of people who were much better than me," he said. "Guys who can do fantastic things with the ball. There are a lot of things I can't do at all, but what I can do is do the very simple things when it really matters. Put a ball through a one-foot gap when it means the difference between an Olympic final and missing out. I can do that."

Hitting the ball straight. It is the most basic skill in all ball games. Most people can do it, to some degree, but doing it at the magic moment, doing it when every element of the *if* test is called into being at once, that shows an appetite for crisis that few people can manage. In the past decade, England have had Lineker, Andrew, Kerly.

I looked out for the falconine nose, thinking that by that I would recognise him, but it was the blazing falconine eyes that did the trick. He looks just the same as he did in the gilded year of 1988. "I did an interview for IBM once," he said. "I failed on my personality test. They came to the conclusion that I should not be involved with high-pressure situations."

Let us think of an example of a high-pressure situation. Say, Australia 2 Great Britain 2, three minutes left to play. Oh, and it is an Olympic semi-final, and Australia are favourites. How did Kerly manage to avoid the pressure? Simple, by completing his hat-trick: Kerly the raptor in jumper No 13.

Naturally enough, Kerly is not a millionaire television pundit. He is sales manager for Poole Pottery. I met him at the National Exhibition Centre in Birmingham where he had been spending the week talking up country-kitchen-type cups and saucers.

He has a wife and three children and he had given up hockey, really, for *good*, when Steven Batchelor, his old striking partner, gave him a call. "Why don't we resurrect the old firm? Batchelor and Kerly: creation and finishing, goals our speciality." Well, why not? Batchelor is coach at Richmond: Kerly went for a game.

Well, Kerly played, with the result already mentioned, and then he went home — high as a kite. Oh, that terrible drug: sport. *Team* sport. "I've missed the team thing so much," Kerly said. "In business, people forget you are in it together and that you're supposed to be trying to achieve a joint goal; and that is a special side to achieving something. Achieving it *together*."

Kerly never saw himself as the oddball individual in the greater team. He was just the one who took responsibility at those vital moments, those foot-wide gaps. The joint goal.

So to Richmond. "I thought I'd be miles off the pace," he said. "Playing with Steve again: all the little moves we got going, at Southgate, and internationally. It was a real pleasure to play with him again."

Addictive stuff, this sport. After all, there is nobody in the tabloids saying: "Come on Sean, hang up your boots; the game's been good to you." He can just get on with it. There are times — mostly when the non-existent pay-day is long past — when it really is quite good to be an amateur.

هكذا في الاصل

Frenchman's sparkle leaves Shearer and Cole in the shade

Cantona calls the tune for United



David Miller sees some striking contrasts in Manchester United's 1-0 defeat of Blackburn Rovers

It was possible to depart from Old Trafford on Saturday with little if any recollection of the respective contributions by Andy Cole or Alan Shearer. More than £10 million worth of goalscoring investment had singularly failed. The memory was, once more, of Eric Cantona.

To the extent that an average match revolved around any one figure, it was Manchester United's elegant, endlessly perceptive captain. It is incomprehensible that Aimé Jacquet, the France coach, can even contemplate omitting Cantona from the finals of the European championship. Week by week, for his touch, his tactical intelligence and, occasionally, his finishing, Cantona must be one of the dozen most effective players in the world. His temperament since returning to the game has been, as far as I have seen, without blemish, while his vision, that abstract quality possessed to such a degree by only a handful of even great players, makes any match in which he plays worth watching.

Against Blackburn Rovers, the depleted champions who, nonetheless, were unbeaten in their previous eight matches, he created, after a quarter of an hour, what proved to be the winning goal, by Lee Sharpe, and was involved in five of the seven other scoring chances in a victory that should have been easier than United made it seem.

As a partner for the able Youri Djorkaeff, from Paris Saint-Germain — the son of Jean, who gained 48 caps — Cantona could form a potent force in the summer. It is a tactical conundrum that Jacquet surely needs to resolve and which he will not unless he sees for himself. The range of Cantona's influence was at times reminiscent of Antonio Rattin, of Argentina, and I am not referring to smouldering emotions.

Apart from a spell of four goals in four matches around the turn of the year, Cole has continued to fall short of Alex Ferguson's expectations. The United manager obliquely referred to this fact when talking afterwards of his side's results unnecessarily "coming down to the wire". Cole could have removed some of the doubt had he scored from a well-positioned diving header close in, after a cross from Beckham, four minutes into the second half.

Blackburn, without Le Saux and, more significantly, Bohinen and Ripley, attempted to steal the points with their familiar pressure-tactics, often having nine or ten men behind the ball, a tactical disposition that left neither Giggs nor Shearer feeling comfortable.

Shearer, despite his 30 goals this season, which have made him the first player to pass the hundred in the Premier League, was made to feel more lonely by effective defence from Pallister — back after injury — and May, the deputy for Bruce, and by the persistent heckling of the crowd of 42,681. Mancunians still resent, four years on, Shearer's preference for Jack Walker's riches.

If Cole, at the other end, was a shade anaemic, so too was Giggs in midfield. Ferguson admitted later to the dilemma that he had faced before the game of whether to play the physically fragile Welshman — none of George Best's unflinching courage here — in a central role alongside Keane. Giggs did produce occasional moments of threatening footwork and guile, but a reluctance to challenge for even 60-40 balls now and then irritated an impatient crowd. The goal came as Cantona, from near the centre circle, floated a beautifully-judged pass over the heads of the Blackburn rearguard. Cole brushed past Hendry, made for goal and his shot was deflected by Flowers on to the left-hand post. From the rebound, Sharpe calmly shot into the far side-netting.

From then until half-time, the game was moving towards Flowers, and some rugged tackles at times threatened to mar the spirit of the match. Yet it is a depressing aspect of so much of football today that spectators are no longer interested in the talents of the opposition, only in success for their own team.

Flowers had to head off the line as Hendry swept the ball off Cole's feet with an unintentional and high back pass: Cantona, exchanging passes with Giggs a minute later, cut through on the right and excitingly shot narrowly behind from an acute angle. On the stroke of half-time, Flowers saved well as Irwin drove for the top right-hand corner.

Early in the second half, Shearer, his frustration rising in indirect proportion to the danger that he was creating, unnecessarily flung himself in pique at Schmeichel and was booked. It was a measure of Blackburn's sterile performance that, though four minutes from time, Gudmundsson, on loan from Halmstad, in Sweden, might have levelled the score with a rising shot from 16 yards that flew just too high.

MANCHESTER UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Schmeichel — D Irwin, D May, G Pallister, P Neville — D Beckham, R Keane, R Giggs, L Sharpe — E Cantona — A Cole.
BLACKBURN ROVERS (4-4-2): T Flowers — H Berg, C Hendry, C Coleman (sub: N Marker, 83min), J Kenna — K Gallagher, W McKimlay, T Sherwood, J Wilcox (sub: N Gudmundsson, 72) — A Shearer, M Newell (sub: G Fenton, 65).
Referee: K Burge.

Cole loses his footing after colliding with Gallacher during United's victory at Old Trafford on Saturday. Photograph: Ian Stewart

Asprilla arrives 29

Chelsea fall for Whelan's favourite trick shot

Coventry City 1
Chelsea 0

BY RUSSELL KEMPSON

WHEN the likes of David Seaman, Eike Immel and Kevin Hitchcock take the bait, in successive matches, and are rendered useless on the ground as the ball is chipped cheekily over them, it is perhaps the sign of a master craftsman at work. For Noel Whelan, the Coventry City striker, it is no more than a demonstration of the self-belief that prompted him to leave Elland Road for Highfield Road two months ago.

Whelan, 21, could not find consistent favour with Howard Wilkinson, the Leeds United manager, and started only six matches for him this season — yet he still commanded a £2 million fee, suggesting that Wilkinson, who demanded it, and Ron Atkinson, the Coventry manager, who paid it, both realised the latent talent lurking within.

Eleven matches and seven goals later, "Noel Who?" to the bemused Coventry supporters is now Noel Somebody: instantly recognisable and worthy of chanting his name in deferance; an England Under-21 player who, in partnership with the admirable Dion Dublin, could rescue Coventry from the Endsleigh Insurance League horrors that might lie in wait.

On Saturday, against a Chelsea side that had lost only once in 15 outings, Whelan supplied his trademark goal in the 44th minute. Richardson's incisive pass gave him a clear sight of Hitchcock — as he had of Seaman, of Arsenal, and Immel, of Manchester City, in the previous week — and the result was the same. Cool appraisal of the situation, split-second wait for the goalkeeper to commit himself and then a delightful delivery into the net.

"It's worked three times for me and I suppose I'll have to change it now," he said, acutely aware of the future implications of his actions. "I'll probably have to come up with something new." Like the successful yet increasingly stereotyped penalty-taker, he was already ahead of the game.

"It was an important result, for the team and for everyone," he said. "I don't think we'll go down and it could even be the start of a good run for us. The move from Leeds came at the right time for me. It was a pure footballing decision and an easy one to make in the circumstances."



Whelan: enjoying striking progress

Whelan is an awkward 6ft 2in, with an upright, strangely aristocratic gait. Away from goal, it spells little danger, apart from a few neat flicks; closer in, he can appear lithe or lethargic, yet is frequently lethal, striking swiftly or with almost casual aplomb.

Coventry should have crushed Chelsea. "No complaints," Glenn Hoddle, the Chelsea manager, said, refreshingly avoiding lame excuses or complaints that defy rational explanation. "They were the better side."

Hoddle's solitary lament, that the pitch did not suit his players' free-flowing style and possessed enough divots to grace St Andrews — the home of golf, not Birmingham City — was fair enough. Yet Coventry adapted the better and, had not Shaw, Ndlovu, Salako, Whelan, Busst and Williams squandered chances aplenty, they would have won at a canter.

For once, Gullit played only a limited role. The significantly lesser-known Whelan eclipsed everybody, with a repetitive finish that might eventually need replacing, but one that will always be a joy to behold.

COVENTRY CITY (4-4-2): S Ogrizovic — A Pickering, D Busst, R Shaw, B Borrows — J Salako, P Telfer, K Richardson, P Ndlovu (sub: P Williams, 77min) — N Whelan, D Dublin.
CHELSEA (3-4-2-1): K Hitchcock — F Sinclair (sub: E Johnsen, 75), D Lee, S Clarke — D Petrescu, R Gullit, E Newton, T Phelan — G Peacock, J Spencer (sub: D Wise, 58) — P Furlong.
Referee: R Dilkes (sub: B Coddington, 61).

Frontzeck and City fall foul of official disapproval



Horne: fierce tackling went unpenalised

Everton 2
Manchester City 0

BY PETER BALL

THE thaw was well under way on Merseyside on Saturday, but a notice saying "Danger, thin ice" still stood beside the pond in Stanley Park. It might have been there for the benefit of Manchester City, who slipped back into the bottom three after a dire game overshadowed by absent foreigners and inept refereeing.

The decision to refuse Marc Hottiger a work permit exercised a lot of minds last week and provoked considerable anger in the Everton corridors.

In defence of the Professional Footballers' Association and the Department of Employment, it is doubtful whether a good-ish Swiss full back would have made much difference to the game, or to Everton.

Most English full backs can hoist in high, hanging crosses from 40 yards away, which was the main Everton attacking ploy in the absence of Kanchelskis, and Jackson did a serviceable enough job, playing a significant part in the first goal. His cross was nodded back by Ferguson for Parkinson to head in.

However, if Kanchelskis was missed, how much more did City miss their Special K. In Kinkladze's absence, they at least tried to pass the ball, with Flitcroft the best player on view, and Clough showing some nice touches, but, without the Georgian, there was no penetration, nothing to disturb Everton.

It may be less glamorous in these days of Asprilla and Ginola, Bergkamp and Cantona, but Everton at least had Ferguson's height to create chaos every time that the ball was hoisted in. Sadly, they also offered the return of the dogs of war, the epithet used by Joe Royle, their manager, of his team last season, which brings us, more sadly still, to the contribution of Paul Alcock, the referee.

One decision, to award a penalty against Symons for handball when the City defender was blatantly shoved in the back by Horne, may have been decisive. Hinchcliffe's conversion, in the 51st minute, ending any chance of a City comeback.

"A bizarre decision," Alan Ball, the City manager said, choosing his words with care.

It was not as bizarre as several others, culminating in the dismissal of Frontzeck, the City defender, for two bookable offences — pulling Ferguson's shirt and blocking Limpar. At the end, Craig Short, the Everton defender, left in earnest conversation with Alcock.

"I wasn't having a go at this particular referee as we came off the pitch, but I felt I had to say something to him about the way the game is going," Short said. "I've seen eight players sent off in Everton games alone this season. Some players need protecting, but it's getting out of hand."

The trouble is, though, that the players who need protection often are not getting it. "It is very hard learning how to play in England," Frontzeck said. "Referees sometimes don't blow for strong tackles, but will give you a card for shirt-pulling."

For "strong tackles", read scything fouls. Alcock looked on benignly as Parkinson and Horne crashed into tackles from behind, and Clough was laid flat with a malicious elbow in front of the referee. The seven yellow cards were produced for obstruction, dissent and shirt-pulling.

EVERTON (4-4-1-1): N Southall — M Jackson, D Watson, C Short, D Unsworth — A Limpar, B Horne, J Parkinson, A Hinchcliffe — G Stuart — D Ferguson.
MANCHESTER CITY (4-4-1-1): E Immel — N Summerbee, K Curle, K Symons, M Frontzeck — M Brown (sub: G Creaney, 45min), S Lomas, G Flitcroft, M Phillips (sub: N Quinn, 45min) — N Clough — U Rosler.
Referee: P Alcock.

Spirit of optimism lights up Blackpool

Wycombe Wanderers ... 0
Blackpool 1

BY IVO TENNANT

BLACKPOOL, the Seasiders; kitted out in tangerine peel and slipping up on banana skins. A club graced by Sir Stanley Matthews, Jimmy Armfield and Alan Ball before sliding into the obscurity of lowly divisions, never, seemingly, to come to the fore again. Until, perhaps, this, their centenary year.

The club stands in third place in the second division of the Endsleigh Insurance League. This is nothing much to set alongside the feats of the 1950s, but is riches indeed by comparison with the struggles of the past two decades, struggles that could not prevent relegation to the old fourth division for the first time in 1981.

Last week, Sam Allardyce, the manager, was able to persuade two individuals, from Liverpool and Tranmere, to join Blackpool for a month on loan. Both Charnock, on the left side of midfield, and Nixon, in goal, contributed to a well-merited victory over Wycombe Wanderers.

In Billy Bingham, Allardyce has a director of football with the kind of know-how to prevent Blackpool from failing to achieve promotion for a second season running. They were in a similar position last year before falling away in the second half of the season. Now, they are unbeaten in their past ten matches.

Allardyce took a chance on Saturday. He left out Ellis, scorer of 11 goals this season, the supporters' favourite and, Allardyce admitted, his own. Allardyce included, instead, Watson, a forward who is on a week-by-week contract. He scored the winning goal.

Aslo, Blackpool were without three established players in Brown, the assistant manager, Darton and Lydiate, all suspended, as well as Morrison, the captain, who was injured. Allardyce had to decide whether to include his own son, ultimately naming him among the substitutes.

Watson's goal was hooked in after Roberts, the Wycombe goalkeeper, had flailed at and missed a corner from Mellor in the 34th minute. Wycombe lacked the cohesion that their opponents, for all their changes, looked to possess. For once, it can be said that Blackpool have a future.

WYCOMBE WANDERERS (3-5-2): B Roberts — J Cousins, T Evans, S Brown — J Rowbotham, K Ryan (sub: D Ferrell, 72min), D Carroll, G Patterson, M Bell — M De Souza, J Williams.
BLACKPOOL (4-4-2): E Nixon — M Bryan, D Langhan, D Bradshaw, A Barlow — M Mellor, J Quinn (sub: P Charnock, 76), M Bonner, R Holden — A Watson, A Preece.
Referee: M Singh.

Bassett solves chief concern

Crystal Palace 0
Sheffield United 0

BY ALYSON RUDD

DAVE BASSETT did not even attempt to pick the side or choose the tactics. The new manager of Crystal Palace was far too busy, calculator and set square by his side, figuring out the management structure of the club. He discovered that there is Ron Noades, the hands-on chairman, Steve Coppell, the technical director, Ray Lewington, a first-team coach, Peter Nicholas, another first-team coach, and himself, the manager.

It took all of Saturday for him to sort out the permutations, but, after stating that he always works closely with his staff, he eventually concluded: "At the end of the day, as the manager, I will have the final say."

It is a peculiar power structure and one suspects that nobody other than Bassett would have been comfortable joining it. However, Bassett worked in tandem with Noades at Wimbledon, where they steered the club from the Southern League to the old first division.

When Bassett, 52, is not performing miracles — he also took Sheffield United into the first division — he is making horrendous errors. He lasted only three days when he last took the reins at Selhurst Park, in 1984, his six months at Watford were fraught with problems and Sheffield were twice relegated under his command.

Nevertheless, he is probably what Palace need. They are a nervy side who find it difficult to cope with the pressure of a home fixture. They were not exactly inspired by his arrival, particularly as he had little to do with them for this Endsleigh Insurance League first division match, but they occasionally hoofed the ball upfield believing that that might be what the new manager wanted. It is not what he wants and it "irks" him that he is so closely associated with long-ball tactics.

With Sheffield as the visitors for Bassett's first game in nominal charge, a passionate goal feast was anticipated, wrongly as it turned out. The first 45 minutes were to entertainment what Joan Collins is to literature. The second half livened up only when Pitcher was dismissed for a two-footed tackle on Hutchison. Thereafter, Palace flung themselves goalwards, but, unfortunately for them, Alan Kelly, the Ireland international, was in goal and Mick McCarthy, the new Ireland manager, was in the stands. Kelly was magnificent.



Bassett: good-natured

Bassett admitted that United needed a new manager with fresh ideas. The contrast between him and Howard Kendall, his successor, could not have been more stark. Kendall was morose, suspicious and pessimistic. Bassett was chirpy and relentlessly good-natured despite the clamour for interview after interview. It will start all over again this Saturday when Watford, another of his previous clubs, will be the visitors at Selhurst Park.

One suspects that, if Bassett can keep the chiefs organised, the Indians will come along nicely.

CRYSTAL PALACE (5-3-2): N Martyn — M Edworthy, D Gordon, A Roberts, G Cowles, S Rodger — B Dyer, R Houghton, D Pitcher — D Freedman (sub: J Vincent, 61min), G Taylor (sub: G Ndah, 68min).
SHEFFIELD UNITED (4-4-2): A Kelly — C Short, R Nilsen, M Vonk, M Ward — D White, G Cowans, M Patterson, D Whitehouse (sub: D Hodgson, 83) — D Hutchison, B Argyll (sub: A Heath, 57).
Referee: M Pierce.

Branfoot ignores craven calls to go

Fulham 2
Hartlepool United 2

BY KEITH PIKE

HE HAS heard the abuse, read the threats and done the honourable thing before, but it cannot be any easier second time around. There may have been higher-profile casualties of "supporter-power" than Ian Branfoot, but none, surely, who has twice had to withstand such sustained and unacceptable hostility.

With Fulham hovering precariously in a two-pronged battle for survival — first as a member of the Endsleigh Insurance League, second as a football club at all — what Branfoot needs most is a thick cheque book. His only weapon, though, is a thick skin. It saw him through another fraught afternoon on Saturday with dignity and job intact.

Available from an official programme seller outside Craven Cottage was a crude, photocopied letter advising Branfoot to "leave now — while you still can" and which, echoing the disgraceful Southampton fanzine that advocated Branfoot's departure from The Dell three years ago, declared: "We also hope you die soon." The manager, the authors claimed, "hasn't got the courage to resign". Neither, incidentally, had they the courage to reveal their identities.

Branfoot was stoical, but he could not fully disguise his disgust at those who were "foul-mouthed, ignorant and a disgrace to a club who have long warranted and treasured an image of friendliness".

Branfoot is not about to quit on a club at the lowest point in its history, in terms of morale as well as league position. "We are fit, we are organised and we are good enough to survive," he said. "Of course we can turn it round. It is a matter of getting through these dark days."

If only his team had been as defiant. Fulham, 2-0 up with 12 minutes to go and within reach of a deserved, rare and desperately needed victory, caved in to allow Hartlepool United to draw and two third division points to float off down the Thames. Allon was twice left unmarked to score with headers after Barber, with a deflected shot, and Blake had rewarded Fulham's more creative approach-play. Dark days indeed.

FULHAM (4-4-2): A Lange — D Jupp (sub: R Hamill, 72min), M Blake, K Moore, R Herrera — J Marshall, N Cusack, R McAree, P Barber — M Conroy, R Scott.
HARTLEPOOL UNITED (3-5-2): B Horne — P Baker, D Ingram, I McSkimlin — S Reddish, M Tait, K Houchen, S Howard, S McKilvey — J Allon, S Halliday (sub: K Oliver, 68).
Referee: S Bennett.

Wright and Fowler provide lesson in finishing to Queens Park Rangers' strikers

Liverpool maintain dogged title pursuit

Queens Park Rangers ... 1
Liverpool ... 2

BY ANDREW LONGMORE

AT THE turn of the year, the smart money was on Liverpool to push Newcastle United all the way to the line. It has not turned out that way yet, though goals by Mark Wright and Robbie Fowler in the first half pushed Liverpool to within two points of Manchester United in second place in the FA Carling Premiership and added to the woes of Queens Park Rangers, still firmly rooted one off the bottom of the table and with time running out in their struggle to escape relegation.

This was a cameo of Liverpool's season, by turns commanding and complacent, cultured and clodhopping. They had the game won by half-time, but sat back and, if Rangers' strikers had shown more composure, could have paid more dearly than the single goal scored by Dichio. Ultimately, the end could not come too soon for an unusually harrassed Liverpool. It had all been so different at the start.

Full results and league tables ... Page 28



Wright drives home Liverpool's opening goal as Queens Park Rangers' problems at the foot of the Premiership multiply at Loftus Road. Photograph: Ian Stewart

If the old saying "too good to go down" does not apply to Rangers, "too young to stay up" just might. Where a little fire and brimstone was needed, there was, instead, typical to the philosophy of Ray Wilkins, their manager, some elegance and a good deal of neat passing. There was just nobody with confidence to add the finishing touch.

It could all have been so different if Gallen had not spurned two excellent chances in the first half, the first inside two minutes. After the lanky Dichio had robbed Jones down the right and pulled the ball back straight into Gallen's stride, the little Rangers striker cannoned his shot against the advancing James. The rebound went straight to Quashie, but his ferocious shot was deflected away from its target.

When teams are in the depths, moments like these can alter games. Liverpool had barely woken up at this stage — indeed, Barnes appeared wearing a pair of white boots, which looked suspiciously like trainers or carpet slippers — but gradually they collected their thoughts and asserted themselves. Their passing, as usual, came straight from the five-a-side training pitch, and it seemed only a matter of time before they would get the measure of their lightweight opponents. Collymore had already enjoyed one sortie at goal — his right-foot shot clipping the top of the crossbar after ten minutes — before they went ahead just after the quarter-of-an-hour mark.

To Rangers' dismay, there was an inevitable touch of misfortune about it. A long-range shot by McAteer had been blocked, a follow-up attempt by Scales struck another home defender and the ball fell straight into the path of Wright, who advanced on Sommer and gleefully hammered it home.

By this time, Liverpool were well into their established rhythm, with Barnes picking up all the loose ends, Collymore and Fowler working the channels and McManaman scampering through the gaps down the middle — yet their second goal was pure long ball. From a throw by James, Collymore took one look and clipped an inch-perfect left-foot pass that split the Rangers central defence and gave Fowler the relatively simple task of beating Sommer. That he did so without his normal panache mattered little: it was his 24th goal of the season.

To their credit, Rangers kept trying to play and Gallen should have done much better when five yards out and presented with a free header. Instead of bringing Rangers back into the game, though, he headed well over. Indeed, Fowler should have punished the error moments later, but his ferocious header from McAteer's cross flashed wide of the mark.

After that, the game became a simple matter of to-have-and-to-hold, of which Liverpool were once the past masters of the art. Rangers passed and moved; Liverpool did it that fraction better.

The only dangers to their domination were complacency and a habit of passing the ball for the sake of it, which has betrayed them once or twice this season. There was even a touch of the "after yous" about the goal that deservedly bought Rangers back into the match. In the 65th minute, after their most spirited spell, Dichio was allowed time and space aplenty to line up a shot from 20 yards, which took a wicked deflection off Scales and slid past James. Some good luck had visited the relegation strugglers at last.

For a moment, Liverpool were thrown off balance and, but for Wright, whose commanding performance at the heart of the Liverpool defence must have caught the eye of Terry Venables, the watching England coach, the damage might have been more permanent. Twice, an equaliser beckoned, but Dichio and Sinclair blasted high and wide with only the goalkeeper to beat.

Redknapp's introduction for the first time since he injured a groin muscle playing for England in early November came not a moment too soon. The trick seemed to work. Redknapp's first touch almost put the game beyond doubt and, under his driving from midfield, Liverpool retained their composure and at least kept Newcastle within telescope range.

QUEENS PARK RANGERS (4-4-2): J Sommer — D Bardsley, D Maddix, S Yates, R Bignott — T Sinclair, S Barker, I Holloway, N Quashie — D Dichio, K Gallen.
LIVERPOOL (3-4-1-2): D James — M Wright, J Scales, P Babb — J McAteer, M Thomas, J Barnes, R Jones — S McManaman — R Fowler (sub: J Redknapp, 78min), S Collymore
Referee: D Gallagher

PREMIERSHIP AT A GLANCE

		Played	Points	Goal diff	Recent form
1	Newcastle	25	60	+29	WWWWW
2	Manchester Utd	26	51	+16	LDWWW
3	Liverpool	26	49	+25	DWWDW
4	Aston Villa	25	45	+16	DWLWW
5	Tottenham	25	42	+9	LWWLD
6	Blackburn	26	41	+12	DWWWL
7	Arsenal	26	41	+9	LWLDW
8	Everton	26	40	+11	WDWDW
9	Notts Forest	26	40	0	WLWLL
10	Chelsea	25	39	+4	WDWWL
11	Leeds	25	35	-6	DWLLL
12	Middlesbrough	26	33	-6	LLLLL
13	Sheffield Wed	25	29	-4	WDLLW
14	West Ham	24	27	-9	LLLWW
15	Southampton	25	25	-11	DLWDD
16	Wimbledon	26	24	-16	LLWLL
17	Coventry	26	24	-16	LDLDW
18	Manchester City	26	24	-20	LDDWL
19	QPR	26	18	-21	LLLLL
20	Bolton	26	13	-27	LWLLL

Weekly change: Up — Stayed the same — Down

Emphatic t win puts England in prime position

BY SARAH FORDE

THE England women's team y apenhanced their chances ol train qualifying for the Europeanillion championship finals with a ayer! convincing 5-0 victory against pre-Portugal in Benavente, neantion, Lisbon, yesterday. The wine to puts England top of the group ould on goal difference above Italy going and has effectively turned the pool into a two-horse race, they with only the winners auto-ainst matically qualifying for the that finals. racy.

England travelled to Portu-l has gal on Thursday in high end spirits after a morale-boosting tan-training session with Don no. Howe, the first time that the rted England coaching co-ordina-g as tor has been involved in their out" preparations. Whatever his arn words of wisdom, they worked eek wonders on the team who the silenced a partisan crowd of 4,000 with a dominant display nan that restricted Portugal to just ter-one real chance, late in the om first half. use

By that stage, England were n a two up. In the 25th minute, bly Kerry Davis won a challenge Do on the edge of the area and ers laid the ball back for Hope em Powell, who fired a shot low to us the goalkeeper's left. ees

Gillian Coultard, making ers her 88th appearance, set up ne, the second goal when her s. short free kick released Kelly to Smith, who crossed for Karen e-Farley to score for the eighth ut time in nine internationals. no

In the 48th minute, Coultard ed finished off a move, orches-ld trated by Sian Williams in e-midfield, with a curling effort e. that dipped into the net. is England's fourth goal was s, their most astonishing. e

Marie-Anne Caterall, at 16, h the squad's youngest player, la came on as substitute for h Kerry Davis on the hour. She it had been on the pitch for just n 30 seconds when the ball u broke loose and she nodded it il home to mark her debut in e style. s

Karen Burke capped a fine display in midfield with England's fifth goal in the final minute, prompting Ted Copeland, the manager, to say: "I'm delighted with the way we played. It leaves us in pole position with the match against Italy likely to decide top position."

Clark's honest endeavour fails to stop Bergkamp felling Forest

Nottingham Forest ... 0
Arsenal ... 1

BY PAT GIBSON

FRANK CLARK, the Nottingham Forest manager, is too decent a man to insult the Football Association by saying that he would turn down the England job when he has not even been offered it, but he has made it fairly clear privately that he has no intention of swapping his relatively comfortable chair at the City Ground for a bed of nails at Lancaster Gate.

More is the pity. Quite apart from his coaching skills, English football could benefit from the refreshing honesty of a manager who makes no excuses after his side has lost an unbeaten home record stretching back 12 months and 26 matches and does not try to defend a player who has been stupid enough to be sent off.

Clark could have pointed to the fact that Forest are badly missing the influence of Pearce, their injured captain, and pleaded that he did not see the incident that led to Lee being dismissed only 13 minutes after he entered the fray as a substitute. He did neither.

Instead, he admitted that he was concerned about a performance that does not augur well for their FA Cup fourth-round replay away to Oxford United tomorrow, let alone their Uefa Cup quarter-final against Bayern Munich next month. "We did not do well enough," he said bluntly. "We did not show enough wit, invention, quality, whatever you want to call it. We did not create enough chances to win, and some very poor defending cost us the game."

As for Lee, who had been booked ten minutes after he had taken the field for his reaction to a tackle by Keown, and sent off two minutes later for striking Linighan in the face, Clark said: "He has got into a habit, for whatever reason, of flailing his arms about recklessly.

"He got sent off for the same thing in the reserves two weeks ago and he could have been booked two or three times today. I think he crossed the line between genuinely using his arms to jump for the ball, which a lot of people do, and being reckless with it."

Not that Lee's dismissal made any difference to the outcome. Arsenal, still without Adams and Bould in defence and Platt and Parlour in midfield, had already won the match by unashamedly adopting Forest's familiar tactics and beating them at their own counter-attacking game.



Bergkamp: winning goal

It made for a scrappy 90 minutes, but the wit, invention and quality that Forest were missing was encapsulated in the decisive goal, on the hour. As Chettle failed to control a difficult bouncing ball, Bergkamp deftly flicked it over his shoulder to Wright before darting through the middle to take the return pass and poke it past Crossley with the Forest defence appealing for offside.

"Poor defending," Clark said. "We lost the ball in a dangerous area and then tried to play offside when it was never on." Arsenal, however, will not worry about that. It gave them just the lift they needed before the first leg of the Coca-Cola Cup semi-final against Aston Villa at Highbury on Wednesday.

NOTTINGHAM FOREST (4-4-2): M Crossley — D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips — S Stone, S Gemmill (sub: P McGregor, 64min), C Bart-Williams, K Black (sub: J Lee, 72) — K Campbell, B Roy.
ARSENAL (4-4-2): D Seaman — L Dixon, A Linighan, M Keown, N Winterburn — P Merson, J Jensen, D Hillier, G Helder — I Wright, D Bergkamp.
Referee: R Hart.

Wednesday win drab winter's tale

Mark Hodkinson dreams of Euro '96 after a day in the basement of the Premiership

On a damp, miserable winter's afternoon in Sheffield, it was wholly appropriate to dream of a summer to come. In just 115 days, Hillsborough will host its first Euro '96 match when Denmark meet Portugal. If the combined talents of those countries can summon mediocrity, it will be a distinct improvement on this fare.

Both Sheffield Wednesday and Wimbledon are uncomfortably close to the relegation area — although Wednesday's win lifted their worries a — but this hardly exonerates — THE two teams who conspired but to haunt themselves. They Confe d the ball sideways and Encou wards, fearful of enjoysurpris company for longer Trophy ree seconds. two seas are the days when a avoided n Wimbledon was an embarras to be dreaded. Their Saturday, s more solicitous and

There sionate, and their r toil diminished. In ent, four of their players were caught offside as they sauntered back — they might once have faced a week's circuit training for such a misdemeanour.

Wimbledon defended poorly against an uneven trio of forwards who often made the same barren runs in triplicate. Amazingly, Wednesday stumbled upon four gilded first-half goal-scoring opportunities and squandered each.

The game looked scripted for a shifty Wimbledon win until Degryse found some order and shot past Sullivan. The goal heralded a bout of fascinating tactical manoeuvres as five substitutes were introduced in the final 40 minutes. The strategem of Joe Kinnear, the Wimbledon manager, was the more emphatic as he sent on Euell and Ekoku to scamper around the Wednesday defence.

Wimbledon's brief flirtation with enterprise was rewarded when Gayle crashed home a fine pass from Holdsworth. Wimbledon sensed their first win of the season outside London, but David Pleat, the Wednesday manager, proved the greater tactician.

Waddle, who had spent the afternoon either being caught in possession or providing sublime passes, placed a free kick onto the head of Watts, a substitute. He headed home and victory was Wednesday's.

"If we hadn't won, it would have been all catastrophe and disaster for us in the papers," Pleat said. "We had a lot of goal attempts and, I'd say, about 70 per cent of the play." He acknowledged that his team had played with too much anxiety. "Fear crept into it, but you should never fear winning football matches," he said. "It sometimes shows a lack of confidence when you shoot too early and my lads did that a few times."

He was pleased to have given a debut, albeit of just six minutes, to Mark Platts, 16, an England schoolboy international. "I was so pleased to have got Platts onto the field," he said. "We'll ruin him, us coaches. We ruin everyone — we always do."

The joke was well intentioned, but, on a day when we had seen fitness above finesse, and almost nothing in the way of natural expression, Pleat's comic timing could not have been more awry.

SHEFFIELD WEDNESDAY (4-3-3): K Pressman — I Nolan, D Walker, D Stefanovic (sub: J Watts, 60min), P Atherton — S Nicol, G Hyde, C Waddle (sub: M Platts, 84) — G Whittingham, M Degryse (sub: M Bright, 80), D Kowtonic.
WIMBLEDON (4-4-2): N Sullivan — K Cunningham, A Pearce, C Perry, A Kimble — O Leonhardsen, R Earle, S Castledine (sub: J Euell, 51), M Gayle — D Holdsworth (sub: A Thom, 87), M Harford (sub: E Ekoku, 45)
Referee: M Bodenham.

Giggs, Cole and Cantona won't just have Fergie on their backs for the next six years.

They'll also have Umbro kit. That's because we've just agreed a new deal with Manchester United which will make Umbro official sportswear suppliers until the year 2002. Looks like another big-name signing for Fergie.

UMBRO

هكذا في الاصل

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

BOLTON (0) 0 A VILLA (1) 2
Dziekanowski 62 — Yorke 40, 53

Bolton Wanderers: K Branagan, S Green, J Phillips, G Ingesson (sub A Thompson 59min) A Stubbs, S Curcic, R Coyne, C Farnsworth, N Blake, F De Freitas, S Sellars (sub J McGinlay, 69min)
Booked: Bergsson.

Aston Villa: M Bosnich, G Charles, A Wright, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton, M Draper, A Townsend, D Yorke, S Milosevic, T Johnson.
Booked: Townsend
Referee: G R Ashby

COVENTRY (1) 1 CHELSEA (0) 0
Whelan 43 — 20,639

Coventry City: S Ogrizovic, B Borrows, A Pickering, D Busst, Shaw, P Richardson, P Telfer, P Mirallvu (sub P Williams, 77min), N Whelan, D Dublin, J Salako
Chelsea: K Hitchcock, S Clarke, R Gullit, F Sinclair (sub E Newton, 74min), J Spencer (sub D Wise 57min) G Peacock, P Furlong, E Newton, D Lee, D Petrescu, T Phelan.
Booked: Petrescu
Referee: L R Dilkes

EVERTON (1) 2 MAN CITY (0) 0
Stuart 32
Beckford 47 (pen) — 37,354

Sent off: M Frontzeck (Man City) 85

Everton: N Southall, M Jackson, C Short, D Watson, D Unsworth, A Limpar, B Horne, J Ebbrell, A Hinchcliffe, G Stuart, D Ferguson
Booked: Horne

Manchester City: E Immel, M Frontzeck, S Lomas, Curle, M Phillips (sub N Quinn, 45min), G Fitzroit, K Symons, N Summerbee, M Brown (sub J Creaney, 45min), N Clough, U Rosler
Booked: Frontzeck, Lomas, Fitzroit
Referee: P Alcock.

MAN UTD (1) 1 BLACKBURN (0) 0
Juape 14 — 42,681

Manchester United: P Schmeichel, D Irwin, I Sharpe, G Pallister, E Cantona, R Giggs, D May, R Keane, A Cole, P Neville, D Beckham
Booked: Keane.

Blackburn Rovers: T Flowers, C Coleman (sub N Marker 82min), J Kenna, T Sherwood, C Hendry, K Gallacher, A Shearer, M Newell (sub G Fenton, 65min) J Wilcox (sub N Gudmundsson 73min), W McKimlay, H Berg.
Booked: Shearer, Newell, Fenton.
Referee: K Burge

MIDDLESBRO (1) 1 NEWCASTLE (0) 2
Beresford 37 (og) — Watson 74
30,011 — Ferdinand 78

Middlesbrough: G Walsh, N Cox, C Morris, S Vickers, N Pearson, N Barmby, J Pollock, P Whelan, P Stamp (sub C Liddle, 45min), Juninho (sub C Hignett, 79min), P Williamson.

Newcastle United: P Srnicek, W Barton, J Beresford, D Peacock, L Clark, R Lee, L Ferdinand, P Albert, K Gallespie (sub F Asprilla, 67min), S Watson, P Beardsley
Referee: S Dunn.

NOTTM F (0) 0 ARSENAL (0) 1
27,222 — Bergkamp 80

Sent off: J Lee (Notts F) 85

Nottingham Forest: M Crossley, D Lyttle, C Cooper, S Chettle, D Phillips, S Stemmil (sub: P McGregor, 64min), K Campbell, S Stone, K Black (sub: J Lee 72min), C Bart-Williams, B Roy.
Booked: Lee

Arsenal: D Seaman, L Dixon, N Winterburn, I Wright, P Merson, D Bergkamp, G Helder, A Linegran, M Keown, D Hillier, J Jensen
Booked: Keown
Referee: R A Hart

SHEFF WED (0) 2 WIMBLEDON (0) 1
Degryse 50 — Gayle 61
Watts 85 — 19,085

Sheffield Wednesday: K Pressman, P Atherton, I Nolan, S Nicol, C Waddle (sub M Pistis, 86min), D Stefanovic (sub J Watts, 80min), M Degryse (sub M Bright, 80min), G Hyde, D Walker, D Kowacevic, G Whittingham
Wimbledon: N Sullivan, E Cunningham, A Kimble, O Leonhardsen, R Earle, D Holdsworth (sub A Thom, 88min), M Gayle S Castledine (sub J Fuell, 52min), M Harford (sub E Ekoku, 46min), G Perry, A Pearce
Booked: Holdsworth, Perry.
Referee: M Bodenham.

Yesterday

QPR (0) 1 LIVERPOOL (2) 2
Dichio 66 — Wright 15
18,405 — Fowler 30

Queens Park Rangers: J Seaman, D Bardsley, R Brevett, D Maddix, S Yates, S Barker, J Holloway, N Quashie, D Dichio, K Gallen, T Sinclair.
Booked: Bardsley, Brevett, Maddix.
Liverpool: D James, R Jones, P Babb, M Wright, J Scales, J McAteer, M Thomas, S McManaman, J Barnes, B Fowler (sub J Redknapp, 76min), S Collymore.
Referee: D J Gallagher

COCA-COLA CUP

Semi-final, first leg

BIRMINGHAM (1) 1 LEEDS (0) 2
Francis 27 — Yeboah 54
24,781 — Whyte 72 (og)

Birmingham: B Grummitt, J Bass, J Frain, R Forsyth (sub: R Otto, 65min), C Whyte, M Johnson, J Hunt, S Claridge, K Francis, J Sheridan (subs: I Bowen, 77min), G Cooper (sub L Donowa, 65min
Leeds: J Lukic, G Kelly, T Dorigo, C Palmer, P Beesley, D Wetherall, M Ford (sub: L Radebe 69min), R Wallace (sub B Deane, 84min), T Yeboah, G McAllister, G Speed.
Referee: K Cooper

TODAY

GERRY Francis, the Tottenham Hotspur manager, is likely to leave out Ronny Rosenthal against West Ham United in their FA Carling Premiership match at White Hart Lane this evening.



Yorke: two goals against Bolton

STRIKING PARTNERSHIPS

LAST season, the top striking partnership in the FA Carling Premiership was Shearer and Sutton, for Blackburn Rovers, the "SAS" as they were known, who accounted for 56 goals (in domestic cups and league). This season, that partnership has ceased to exist, with Shearer a lone force up front. However, five new ones have emerged (with goals of 20 goals plus); at Liverpool, Tottenham Hotspur, Aston Villa, Arsenal and Coventry City. Fowler and Collymore (35 goals) are narrowly ahead of Armstrong and Sheringham (34). Whelan has hit 8 off with Dublin at Coventry, adding seven goals to the ten matches that he has played for his new club and boosting their unlikely combination to 21 goals.

The only improving pairing on last year is Hirst and Bright (22 goals), the former player having a wretched 1994-95 with injury. It is noteworthy that both Manchester clubs are having problems with their striking duos: Cole and Cantona, of United, have only 17 after scoring 25 in 1994-95, when the former player joined the club after 14 games and the latter was suspended for the last 16 League games; Rosler and Quinn, of City, netted 32 times last season but have managed just 14 this campaign.

GOALSCORERS

	Lge	Cup	Euro	Total
A Shearer (Blackburn)	24	5	1	30
R Fowler (Liverpool)	22	3	0	25
L Ferdinand (Newcastle)	21	4	0	25
T Sheringham (Tottenham)	14	7	0	21
I Wright (Arsenal)	11	8	0	19
D Yorke (Aston Villa)	12	4	0	16
T Yeboah (Leeds)	10	3	3	16
D Dublin (Coventry)	13	1	0	14
C Armstrong (Tottenham)	8	5	0	13

	Lge	Cups	Total season
Fowler (Liverpool)	22	3	25
Collymore (Liverpool)	7	3	10
Sheringham (Tottnhm)	14	7	21
Armstrong (Tottnhm)	8	5	13
Wright (Arsenal)	11	8	19
Bergkamp (Arsenal)	6	1	7
Yorke (A Villa)	12	4	16
Milosevic (A Villa)	6	1	9
Hirst (Sheff Wed)	11	1	12
Bright (Sheff Wed)	7	3	10
Dublin (Coventry)	13	1	14
Whelan (Coventry)	8	1	7

CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
Newcastle	25	13	0	0	30	6	6	3	3	19	14	60	+29
2 Man Utd	26	9	4	0	25	9	6	2	5	22	20	51	+18
3 Liverpool	26	9	3	1	32	8	5	4	4	18	14	49	+28
4 A Villa	25	7	3	2	19	9	6	3	4	15	9	45	+16
5 Tottenham	25	6	3	3	17	12	5	6	2	16	12	42	+9
6 Blackburn	26	11	1	1	35	9	1	4	8	5	19	41	+12
7 Arsenal	26	6	5	2	21	13	5	3	5	13	12	41	+9
8 Everton	26	7	3	3	23	12	4	4	5	16	16	40	+11
9 Notts F	26	8	4	1	21	10	2	6	5	14	25	40	0
10 Chelsea	26	6	5	2	20	12	4	4	5	10	14	39	+4
11 Leeds	25	7	2	3	16	10	3	3	7	15	27	35	-6
12 Middlesboro	26	7	2	4	21	14	2	4	7	6	19	33	-6
13 Sheff Wed	25	5	4	4	23	20	2	4	6	12	19	29	-4
14 West Ham	24	5	3	4	14	16	3	2	7	12	19	29	-9
15 Southmptn	25	4	5	3	14	13	1	4	7	11	23	25	-11
16 Wimbledon	26	3	4	6	19	24	3	2	8	17	28	24	-16
17 Coventry	26	4	4	5	17	19	1	5	7	16	30	24	-16
18 Man City	26	5	4	4	10	9	1	2	10	6	27	24	-20
19 QPR	26	3	3	7	13	21	2	0	11	6	19	18	-21
20 Bolton	26	3	3	7	9	18	0	1	12	15	33	13	-27

Endsleigh Insurance League

FA CARLING PREMIERSHIP

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
Newcastle	25	13	0	0	30	6	6	3	3	19	14	60	+29
2 Man Utd	26	9	4	0	25	9	6	2	5	22	20	51	+18
3 Liverpool	26	9	3	1	32	8	5	4	4	18	14	49	+28
4 A Villa	25	7	3	2	19	9	6	3	4	15	9	45	+16
5 Tottenham	25	6	3	3	17	12	5	6	2	16	12	42	+9
6 Blackburn	26	11	1	1	35	9	1	4	8	5	19	41	+12
7 Arsenal	26	6	5	2	21	13	5	3	5	13	12	41	+9
8 Everton	26	7	3	3	23	12	4	4	5	16	16	40	+11
9 Notts F	26	8	4	1	21	10	2	6	5	14	25	40	0
10 Chelsea	26	6	5	2	20	12	4	4	5	10	14	39	+4
11 Leeds	25	7	2	3	16	10	3	3	7	15	27	35	-6
12 Middlesboro	26	7	2	4	21	14	2	4	7	6	19	33	-6
13 Sheff Wed	25	5	4	4	23	20	2	4	6	12	19	29	-4
14 West Ham	24	5	3	4	14	16	3	2	7	12	19	29	-9
15 Southmptn	25	4	5	3	14	13	1	4	7	11	23	25	-11
16 Wimbledon	26	3	4	6	19	24	3	2	8	17	28	24	-16
17 Coventry	26	4	4	5	17	19	1	5	7	16	30	24	-16
18 Man City	26	5	4	4	10	9	1	2	10	6	27	24	-20
19 QPR	26	3	3	7	13	21	2	0	11	6	19	18	-21
20 Bolton	26	3	3	7	9	18	0	1	12	15	33	13	-27

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

C PALACE (0) 0 SHEFF UTD (0) 0
15 883

Sent off: D Pitcher (C Palace) 57

DERBY (0) 0 WOLVRHMPTN (0) 0
17 460

LUTON (1) 3 GRIMSBY (1) 2
Alexander 7
Sweetzer 68
Marshall 74 — Forrester 17, 58
7 158

MILLWALL (0) 1 READING (1) 1
Newman 59 — Bowry 32 (og)
8,875

OLDHAM (1) 2 NORWICH (0) 0
Makin 13
Barlow 63

Sent off: A Johnson (Norwich) 70

PORTSMTH (1) 2 LEICESTER (1) 1
Burton 30
Hall 89 — Roberts 28
9 003

STOKE (1) 3 IPSWICH (0) 1
Sheron 38, 75
Gleghorn 65 — Scowcroft 54
12,239

SUNDRLAND (0) 0 PORT VALE (0) 0
15,954

TRANMERE (0) 1 BARNSLEY (0) 3
Aldridge 76 — Payton 49, 83
6,376 — Redfearn 80 (pen)

WATFORD (1) 1 CHARLTON (0) 2
Phillips 26 — Robinson 51
8,394 — Bowyer 73

WEST BROM (1) 3 SOUTHEND (0) 1
Hunt 34
Taylor 46, 86 — Marsh 87
12,906

POSTPONED: Birmingham v Huddersfield

SECOND DIVISION

BRADFORD (0) 0 STOCKPORT (0) 1
5,290 — Landon 73

BRISTOL CITY (2) 3 BOURNEMTH (0) 0
Seal 12
Tinnion 20
Agostino 56 — 6,217

BURNLEY (0) 0 CREWE (1) 1
9 153 — Edwards 21

CARLISLE (1) 2 BRENTFORD (0) 1
Ouma 20
Reeves 61 — Bates 48
5,143

Sent off: C Hutchings (Brentford) 59

HULL (0) 1 BRISTOL R (0) 3
Dawson 54 — Stewart 49
3,311 — Browning 62
Beadle 83

OXFORD UTD (1) 1 BRIGHTON (0) 1
Elkins 28 — McDougald 48
5 873

PETERBORO (0) 2 SHREWSBURY (0) 2
Ormondroyd 57
Sactham 70 — Ainsworth 46
4 986 — Ouma 65

SWANSEA (0) 0 SYMEDON (1) 1
4 452 — Taylor 28

WALSALL (0) 0 NOTTS CO (0) 0
4 378

WYCOMBE (0) 0 BLACKPOOL (1) 1
5,285 — Watson 34

YORK (1) 2 ROTHERHAM (0) 2
Pepper 32
Taylor 54 — Richardson 65 (pen)
3 359 — Goodwin 76

POSTPONED: Wrexham v Chesterfield

THIRD DIVISION

COLCHESTER (0) 1 WIGAN (0) 2
Abbott 52 — Lancashire 64, 86
3 082

DONCASTER (0) 0 BURY (1) 1
2 418 — Mathews 10

FULHAM (1) 2 HARTLPOOL (0) 2
Barber 18
Blake 54 — Allen 78, 86
3 700

GILLINGHAM (2) 2 TORQUAY (0) 0
Smith 6
Ratcliffe 26 — 7,116

L ORIENT (1) 4 CARDIFF (1) 1
West 26, 50, 56 (pen)
Inglethorpe 87 — Pratt 19
3,564

NORTHAMPTN (1) 1 DARLINGTON (1) 1
White 32 — Painter 39
4,926

PRESTON (0) 0 BARNET (0) 1
9,974 — Wilson 66

ROCHDALE (0) 0 SCARBORO (0) 2
1,862 — Totman 52
Midgley 56

SCUNTHRPE (1) 1 PLYMOUTH (1) 1
McFarlane 4 — Evans 23
2,789

Sent off: M Evans (Plymouth) 89

POSTPONED: Chester v Cambridge U, Exeter v Mansfield, Hereford v Lincoln.

GOALSCORERS

First division: 18 Aldridge (Tranmere) 17 Goodman (Wolverhampton), 16 Roberts (Leicester) 14 Stuntiga (Derby), Hunt (West Brom), Payton (Barnsley), 13 Ward (Norwich); Booth (Huddersfield); Hunt (Birmingham) 12 Mahre (Ipswich) Phillips (Watford); Gabbiadini (Derby); Rae (Millwall); Marshall (Luton); Taylor (West Brom)

Second division: 21 Nogan (Burnley) Barnes (York), 20 Stewart (Bristol Rovers) 19 Goater (Rotherham) 16 Jones (Bournemouth); Reeves (Carlisle), 15 Macandale (Peterborough), Finney (Swindon); White (Notts County) 14 Connolly (Wrexham); Wilson (Walsall), Shawler (Bradford) 13 Torpey (Swansea); Allison (Swindon) Armstrong (Stockport).

Third: division: 25 Dale (Cardiff), 19 Saville (Preston), 16 Wiles (Hereford); Whitehall (Rochdale), 17 McFarlane (Scunthorpe) 15 Butler (Gillingham), 11 for Cambridge Utd); Littlejohn (Plymouth), 14 Adcock (Colchester) 13 Fortune-West (Gillingham); Steel (Bury) 12 Wyre (Northampton); West (Leyton Orient) 11 Diaz (Wigan); West (Torquay, 7 for York), 10 Jones (Doncaster); Baker (Torquay, 7 for York).

Endsleigh Insurance League

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Derby	29	9	5	1	28	11	5	5	4	18	20	52	46
2 Charlton	28	8	6	2	21	15	7	4	3	20	14	49	41
3 Huddersfld	29	9	3	3	26	15	3	6	5	12	17	45	38
4 Southend	29	9	4	2	21	13	3	4	7	13	22	44	34
5 Sunderland	28	7	5	2	20	8	4	6	4	11	15	44	31
6 Barnsley	29	7	6	2	20	17	4	5	6	20	27	43	40
7 Stoke	28	6	5	3	19	11	5	4	5	21	23	42	40
8 Millwall	30	4	6	6	15	18	6	5	3	16	19	41	31
9 Ipswich	28	6	4	3	32	21	2	8	5	18	20	40	50
10 Leicester	28	4	5	4	18	19	5	5	4	23	20	40	42
11 Portsmth	31	7	4	4	28	20	3	5	8	20	28	39	48
12 Norwich	30	5	8	4	17	15	5	3	7	23	22	39	40
13 Birmingham	27	6	5	2	22	16	4	4	6	16	21	39	38
14 Grimsby	29	5	8	2	18	14	4	3	7	17	23	38	35
15 C Palace	27	2	7	3	13	15	6	5	4	19	18	36	32
16 Oldham	28	6	5	3	23	13	2	6	6	14	18	35	37
17 Tranmere	28	6	4	4	25	17	3	4	7	12	16	35	37
18 Wolvrhmptn	28	5	6	4	21	18	2	5	6	14	18	32	35
19 Reading	28	6	3	5	19	18	1	8	5	14	20	32	33
20 Luton	28	5	4	5	22	23	3	4	6	8	17	32	28
21 Port Vale	28	3	4	6	16	20	4	6	5	17	20	31	33
22 West Brom	28	6	2	6	18	17	2	2	10	15	31	29	33
23 Sheff Utd	29	4	4	6	18	21	2	5	8	17	26	27	35
24 Watford	27	3	5	5	16	15	2	5	7	14	21	25	30

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Gls
1 Swindon	27	8	5	1	24	8	8	3	2	21	10	56	45
2 Crewe	28	9	2	1	26	10	6	3	5	22	18	50	48
3 Blackpool	27	7	4	2	22	11	6	5	3	19	15	48	41
4 Notts Co	25	8	2	3	21	11	5	6	1	15	8	47	36
5 Chesterfld	25	9	3	1	26	11	3	4	5	13	16	43	39
6 Bradford	29	8	2	4	21	18	4	3	8	18	27	41	39
7 Bristol R	28	5	3	6	17	21	6	5	3	18	18	41	35
8 Shrewsbury	28	6	3	5	21	16	5	3	6	17	22	39	38
9 Stockport	28	3	6	4	13	12	7	3	5	23	17	39	36
10 Wycombe	28	4	7	2	15	12	5	5	5	20	18	39	36
11 Burnley	27	7	5	3	26	18	3	3	6	13	17	38	39
12 Bournemth	28	8	3	4	23	18	3	2	8	12	24	38	35
13 Oxford Utd	27	9	2	2	25	11	1	6	7	9	16	38	34
14 Wrexham	26	6	6	1	25	14	2	7	4	12	15	37	37
15 Walsall	26	4	7	2	17	11	5	2	6	11	9	36	28
16 Rotherham	28	8	4	3	23	15	1	4	8	12	26	35	35
17 Bristol City	28	6	4	4	16	12	2	6	6	12	25	34	28
18 Peterboro	26	5	4	4	23	17	2	5	6	13	24	30	36
19 Brentford	27	8	1	5	14	10	0	5	8	10	23	30	24
20 Carlisle	28	5	5	3	18	13	1	5	9	16	30	28	34
21 York	25	4	4	5	16	17	3	1	8	13	24	26	29
22 Brighton	28	3	4	7	14	21	3	3	8	12	22	25	26
23 Swansea	28	3	6	5	16	19	2	3	9	12	30	24	28
24 Hull	27	1	5	7	12	25	1	5	8	8	22	16	20

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Rangers	26	10	2	2	35	12	9	3	0	25	4	62	+44
2 Celtic	26	7	4	1	18	10	10	4	0	27	9	59	+26
3 Aberdeen	25	7	0	5	21	12	5	4	4	17	16	40	+10
4 Hearts	26	8	1	5	27	20	3	3	6	13	20	37	0
5 Hibernian	26	5	3	4	19	19	4	3	7	15	24	33	-9
6 Raith	28	6	4	4	16	12	3	1	8	10	26	32	-12
7 Kilmarnock	26	5	4	3	20	14	3	2	9	12	27	30	-8
8 Falkirk	26	4	3	7	13	18	2	2	8	10	21	23	-16
9 Partick	26	3	4	7	9	18	3	1	8	9	19	23	-19
10 Motherwll	25	2	4	5	7	12	1	6	7	9	19	19	-15

FIRST DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Dundee Utd	25	7	3	3	29	16	6	4	2	16	12	46	+17
2 G Morton	23	6	1	3	18	10	8	2	3	21	14	45	+15
3 Dunfrmline	22	7	1	2	21	10	7	1	4	22	12	44	+21
4 Dundee	24	2	5	5	14	16	9	2	1	24	12	40	+6
5 St Johnstn	24	7	4	2	22	8	4	2	5	14	15	39	+12
6 St Mirren	26	4	2	6	16	19	5	5	4	18	17	34	-2
7 Airdrie	24	4	4	6	13	19	5	4	3	15	14	29	-5
8 Clydebank	24	2	4	5	13	15	2	3	6	14	22	25	-10
9 Hamilton	23	3	2	7	15	19	1	3	7	7	17	17	-14
10 Dumbarton	23	2	1	9	9	25	1	1	9	9	35	11	-42

SECOND DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Stirling	23	8	3	1	25	9	6	4	1	27	12	49	+31
2 East Fife	24	4	4	3	13	13	10	2	1	18	8	46	+12
3 Berwick	24	6	4	2	19	9	6	1	5	22	17	41	+15
4 Stenhsmuir	24	6	3	2	22	11	4	3	6	19	21	36	+9
5 Stranraer	24	5	7	1	14	8	1	7	3	12	18	32	-8
6 Forfar	23	5	2	5	10	21	2	3	6	10	16	26	-7
7 Clyde	21	3	2	5	15	12	2	7	2	7	7	24	-1
8 Ayr	22	2	4	5	10	14	3	4	4	10	13	23	-7
9 Queen Of S	22	2	5	5	17	27	2	3	5	12	16	20	-14
10 Montrose	23	2	2	7	12	21	0	2	10	8	31	10	-2

THIRD DIVISION

	P	HOME W	D	L	F	A	AWAY W	D	L	F	A	Pt	Goal diff
1 Brechin	23	8	2	3	19	7	4	4	2	9	6	42	+15
2 Livingston	22	5	3	5	11	9	7	1	3	15	6	40	+12
3 Arbroath	23	4	5	2	18	14	6	3	3	14	14	38	+2
4 Caley This	22	4	4	2	22	14	6	3	3	26	8	37	+25
5 Ross Co	23	6	6	0	23	10	4	4	3	16	13	37	+16
6 Cowdnbth	22	6	2	4	19	15	3	1	6	15	23	30	-4
7 Queen's Pk	24	5	5	3	18	12	1	3	7	9	27	26	-5
8 East Stirling	23	3	1	6	15	21	3	5	5	21	24	24	-9
9 Alloa	24	3	1	7	10	25	1	6	6	9	18	19	-26
10 Alpion	21	3	1	5	14	17	2	0	10	12	27	16	-42



Barjuan, left of Barcelona, breaks away from Zamorano, of Real Madrid, in a Spanish first division match on Saturday. Barcelona beat their arch rivals 3-0

NON LEAGUE AND NATIONAL LEAGUES

UNIBOND

PREMIER DIVISION: Bishop Auckland 1 Leek 1; Boston 4 Spennymoor 1; Colwyn Bay 0 Droylsden 0; Frickley 3 Winsford 3; Witton 2 Marine 0 Postponed: Buxton v Barrow, Knowsley v Accrington Stanley

	P	W	D	L	F	A	Pts
Bamber Bridge	28	15	10	3	38	28	55
Hyde Utd	27	16	6	5	56	28	54
Barton Utd	28	15	7	6	54	31	52
Barrow	28	15	7	6	54	31	52
Gateshead	28	14	7	7	41	29	49
Witton Alb	28	12	9	7	46	33	45
Gainsborough	28	12	9	7	41	29	45
Emley	28	12	8	8	44	36	44
* Accrington S	28	12	9	7	37	28	43
Leek Town	28	11	8	9	41	36	41
Spennymoor	28	11	8	9	38	36	41
Bishop Auckland	28	10	9	9	40	35	39
Blyth Spartacs	28	10	8	10	35	34	38
Chorley	28	10	8	10	36	36	38
Knowsley	28	10	7	11	35	36	37
Marine	28	10	7	11	36	39	37
Winsford Utd	28	9	9	10	36	41	36
Frickley	28	9	8	11	37	50	35
Colwyn Bay	28	8	9	11	34	44	33
Droylsden	28	8	8	12	37	42	32
Buxton	28	8	7	13	34	40	31
Matlock	28	7	8	13	29	41	29

* Three points deducted

FIRST DIVISION: Eastwood Town 1 Lough U Great Harwood 3 Ashton United 3, Lancaster 1 Runcorn 0, Lincoln United 5 Harrogate Town 1, Worksop 2 Atherton 0 Postponed: Shildon v P & V, Congleton, Curzon Ashton v Whitley Bay, Farsley Celtic v Northwich, Prescot v Warrington

ICIS

PREMIER DIVISION: Aylesbury 4 Sutton United 1, Bishop's Stortford 3 Hendon 1; Chertsey 0 Dulwich 1; Enfield 5 Worthing 1; Grays 1 Molesey 0; Hitchin 2

هكذا من الأصل

Gambler Keegan stakes claim for title



Simon Barnes sees Newcastle's Colombian import inspire a 2-1 victory over Middlesbrough

No wonder Kevin Keegan does not fancy the England job. The traditional way to win a league championship is to hang tough in February and March: as weariness creeps in, to acquire the precious, point-gathering art of playing badly and winning.

Not Keegan, not Newcastle United. His response to hearing the distant sound of pursuing feet was to spend £7.5 million and buy one of the greatest and most exciting players on the world stage.

Faustino Asprilla more or less exploded into English football on Saturday, winning a match that looked lost and, at a guess, acting as the catalyst for the final transmutation of Newcastle into champions.

It is not that the vast resources at his disposal make Keegan's job as Newcastle manager *easy*, but they do offer him the unparalleled opportunity to dare. Keegan is a restless soul who loves to gamble, so he went for this Colombian player, a man with an equivocal reputation, ready, almost eager, to face colossal amounts of hostile criticism. Then the chance to see the gamble begin to come off. What other job in English football could offer that?

'Asprilla exploded into English football'

Keegan is a gambler all right, always seeking to put his reputation on the line. His sale of Andy Cole, the Newcastle love-object, proved that last season. The introduction of Asprilla is but further confirmation of Keegan as compulsive high roller.

He got Asprilla's work permit through on Friday and flew the player in by private jet on Saturday morning. Asprilla arrived at 11am. Keegan offered him lunch; he said that he would take just a glass of wine. What better pre-match meal?

Keegan's instinct was to play him, but the lack of match fitness, plus Asprilla's admission that he had received a knock in training in the week, put him on the bench. Well, why not? It was more dramatic that way. Gamblers have a taste for drama.

So Middlesbrough set about winning the game, set about putting their gloomy sequence of six successive defeats behind them. Barmby and Juninho ran and ran at Newcastle, causing them all kinds of problems. Juninho, the Brazilian — what is happening to English football, excellence or something? — was in inspired form, scuttling dizzyingly all over the place.

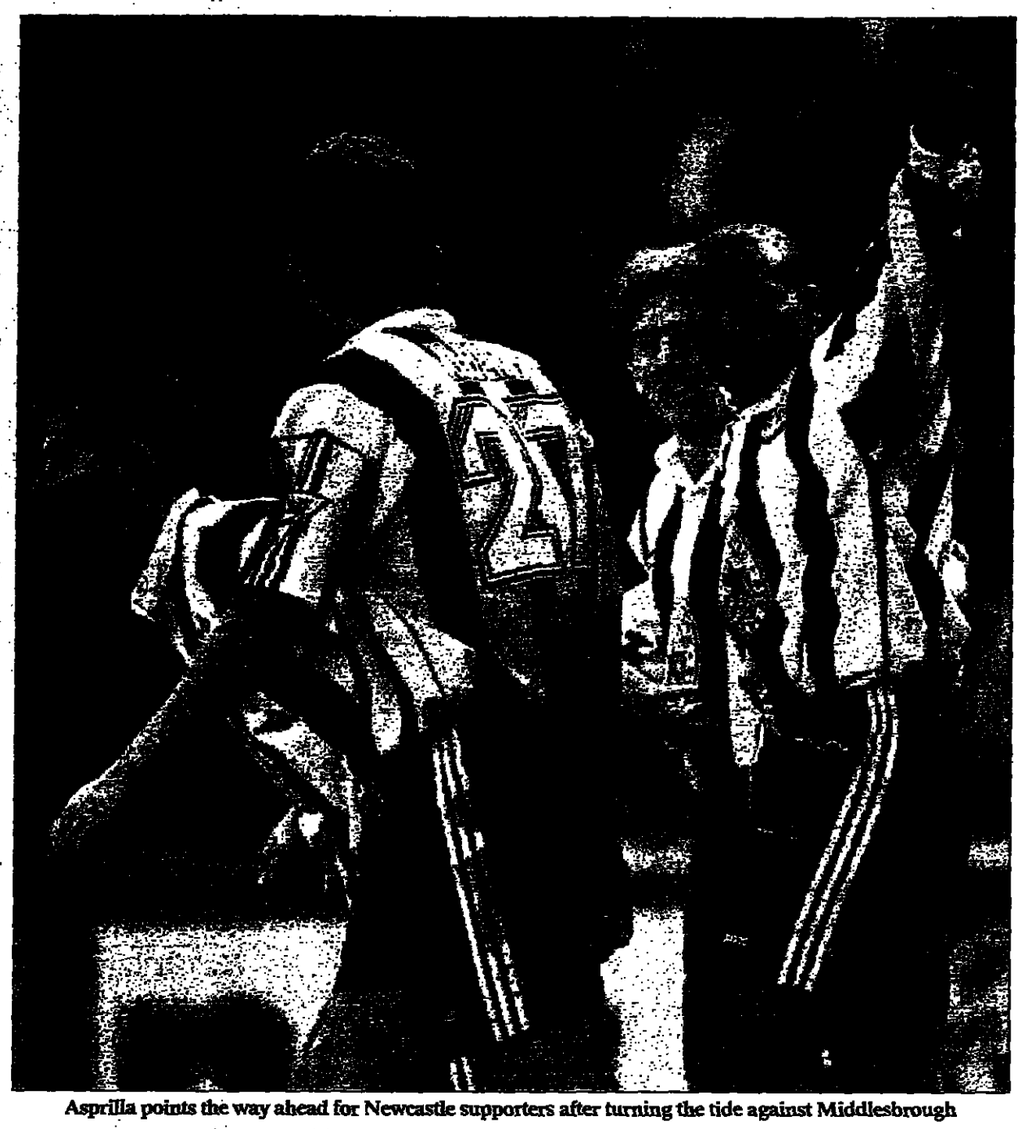
His cross should have been put away by Wilkinson, but, instead, Beresford saved him the trouble with an own goal. Barmby had three chances to make it 2-0, but, alas, he had forgotten how to score. So, as Middlesbrough played with seven men behind the ball, enter Asprilla.

"Don't see what was brave about the decisison," Keegan said. "Nothing else I could do. I thought, maybe this guy can spark us off, and he was champing at the bit." Maybe he had been eyeing the skills of English defenders.

It was a nice constrast in South Americans: Juninho is all scuttle and bustle, Asprilla is the more traditionally languid model. He showed that he has quite exceptional skills and the strength to exploit them.

The way that he set up the equaliser was one of those little vignettes of perfection that you get in football from time to time. Vickers, its victim, did not appreciate it. Nor did Bryan Robson, the Middlesbrough manager, who muttered in his managerly way about allowing Asprilla the extra yard of space.

Tush! If Vickers had been tighter on him, Asprilla would have beaten him with a different trick, and Robson would have told us that Vickers should have stood further off.



Asprilla points the way ahead for Newcastle supporters after turning the tide against Middlesbrough

As it was, Asprilla dragged him one way, then the other, and then, in the most nonchalant way in the world, flicked a short, measured cross for Watson to nod home.

Asprilla continued to cause dismay in the Middlesbrough defence, and it was his tactics that allowed Beardsley to intercept and feed Ferdinand.

Ferdinand did not hit the chance cleanly; had he done so, Walsh would probably have saved it. He was beaten, as cricketers say, by the lack of pace, diving over the ball in a way that brought to mind Gary Sprake. The error looked worse than it was, but it was enough to do for Middlesbrough.

"I won't tell him where to play," Keegan said, happily smashing the manager's myth of total control. "I'll just say: 'Do your thing, and we'll fit in with you.'

"We'll just light the blue touch-paper and let him get on with it. He is the sort of player who will flourish at this club — a free spirit."

Asprilla had a lovely afternoon. Above all, he looked as if he wanted to play, rather than to collect cheques. Furthermore, he is only 26, far from an Italian league cast-off.

How long will he last? The European Cup beckons Newcastle next season: a factor that was surely of no little significance in Asprilla's desision to move to the North East.

That, and an affinity for the manager — a shared gambler's instinct — a shared feeling that free spirits go out and seize their moment rather than lurk about with seven men behind the ball, waiting for it to come.

MIDDLESBROUGH (3-4-2-1): G Walsh — N Pearson, S Vickers, P Whelan — N Cox, P Stamp (sub: C Liddle, 46min), J Pollock, C Morris — Juninho (sub: C Hignett, 75), N Barmby — P Wilkinson.

NEWCASTLE UNITED (4-4-1-1): P Srnicek — W Barton, P Albert, D Peacock, J Beresford — K Gillespie (sub: F Asprilla, 68), L Clark, P Lee, S Watson — P Beardsley — L Ferdinand.

Referee: S Dunn.

Bolton about to bow out ungracefully

Bolton Wanderers 0
Aston Villa 2

BY MICHAEL HENDERSON

BOLTON Wanderers will leave the Premiership in two months, taking with them a few memories and a thousand curses. Their supporters may console themselves, as others have done before them, with the knowledge that ambition outstripped the team's grasp. For the players and Colin Todd, the manager, the disappointment will be sharper.

Despite spending a small fortune on strengthening the team that won promotion last spring, Bolton cannot score goals at this level, and let in soft ones. Branagan, a fine goalkeeper who had another notable game on Saturday, is entitled to wonder what goes through the minds of the men who are supposed to protect him. Curcic, the dazzling Serb midfield player, could also be excused.

This was a two-goal drubbing. Villa scored once in each half through Yorke, and should have doubled their score at the very least. Yorke, Draper and Milosevic might each have scored a hat-trick but for Branagan, and Johnson hit a post. Their mastery was complete and a clever little side is taking shape, a side clever enough to win a cup and maybe *the* Cup.

At the end of a week when overseas players hogged the headlines, it is wise to recall Sir Thomas Beecham's famous words about foreign conductors. "Why do we bother to import so many third-raters," he asked, giving the pot a mischievous stir, "when we have so many second-raters of our own?"

Brolin cannot get in the Leeds United team. Hottiger left Newcastle United because he was a fringe player and Silenzi has had barely a look-in at Nottingham Forest. Sneekes, the Dutchman who plays in Bolton's midfield, is not obviously better than a dozen native-born players. As for de Freitas, a clumsy striker, the prudent shopper could buy two of his sort in the January sales and still get change from a tenner.

Then, there is the home-grown inadequate. Bolton bought Blake, the Welsh centre forward from Sheffield United for £1 million, and he has yet to score in nine matches. From his portly appearance, he appears to train on a lard diet. Think: a million pounds for a moderate player! In their desperation to preserve status and reputation, football clubs continue to throw away money that would keep a regional theatre going for years.

At such times, when they imagine the world is against them, managers believe that everything is a conspiracy. You might think that Todd has more urgent matters to amend than the "appalling" standards of refereeing, but no. "It's time they were sorted out," he said. Fine. So long as he and his kind also "sort out" the duff players, who earn thousands of pounds a week and still do not understand the laws of the game.

Why should a linesman endure the sort of ear-battering that one got here from Staunton — a volley of abuse that lasted 20 seconds from a player who could not possibly know that he was right? Do managers haul their players in after a match and tell them such behaviour is inexcusable? Of course not: referees are incompetent, players merely passionate. The game, meanwhile, goes to the dogs.

There is one easy way to improve standards of refereeing: send former players out with the whistle. In cricket, no sooner have players retired than they are back on the field in white coats, putting something back into the game. Rugby men devote lives to this difficult job, but football, alas, does not inspire the same loyalty to the game.

Partisanship is all, on both sides of the fence. The Villa supporters began the match with a lavatorial chant about the run-down state of Burnden Park. Of course, when you come from the most beautiful city in Europe, it must be terribly irksome to visit less distinguished places.

BOLTON WANDERERS (4-4-2): [illegible] Branagan — S Green, G Bergsson (sub: A Thompson, 59min), C Fairclough, J Phillips — R Sneekes, A Stubbs, S Curcic, S Sellars (J McGinlay, 70) — F de Freitas, N Blake.

ASTON VILLA (5-2-3): M Bosnich — G Charles, U Ehiogu, G Southgate, S Staunton, A Wright — M Draper, A Townsend — T Johnson, D Yorke, S Milosevic.

Referee: G Ashby.

Rangers reliant on Gascoigne conquering the enemy within

KEVIN McCARRA



Scottish commentary

Rangers may be making measured progress towards the title, but Paul Gascoigne keeps tripping over his temperament. The England midfield player fell twice in quick succession on Saturday. The first stumble was laudable, a testimony to his craft, as he induced the foul by Chris McCart for which his team received a penalty. It was converted by Ally McCoist and secured a 3-2 win over Motherwell in the Bell's Scottish League premier division match at Ibrox. Almost immediately after being floored, though, Gascoigne was to let himself down.

He picked himself up and, gloating over his success, shouted at McCart and waved a fist in his face. Willie Young, the referee, quite properly booked Gascoigne for his boorishness. The player was fortunate that a gesture with his middle finger earlier in the game went undetected. The Scottish FA has already written to Rangers regarding Gascoigne's excesses. One sometimes wonders if the Englishman's prodigious earnings are being supplemented by a research grant.

He has a fertile mind when it comes to indiscipline and seems to be exploring fresh ways of collecting bookings. On occasion, Gascoigne has been a victim of humourless officialdom. During the match with Hibernian in December, the player picked up a yellow card that had fallen from the referee's pocket and wagged it at Douglas Smith, the official, who then retrieved it and used it in earnest to caution Gascoigne.

There was a degree of sympathy for the player against Partick Thistle last weekend when he was booked for some entirely wholesome celebrations after one of the two goals merely because he stepped off the pitch before indulging in them. By and large, however, Gascoigne has not been wronged since joining Rangers last summer.

Referees can be intolerant of his high spirits, but they have, at times, been lenient over the high elbows with which he has been known to ward off challenges. It was unfortunate that Walter Smith, the Rangers manager, should have termed the general treatment of the player "ludicrous". Gascoigne should not, on balance, complain about his disciplinary record. It is a reasonably accurate index of his conduct. He has now been booked in each of the two matches after his suspension.

Gascoigne is usually guilty of indiscretion rather than cynicism, and one can barely imagine him felling an opponent with a callous tackle. It exasperates managers that his offences are always so glaringly avoidable. The wait for Gascoigne, 28, to achieve maturity has been a long vigil and perhaps it never will be rewarded. The degree of frustration for his coaches has always risen with the level of performance from the Englishman. Accordingly, Smith must, at present, be consumed by exasperation. After four years of grave injury, Gascoigne is once more a vital figure who can determine the outcome of matches and, perhaps, a championship.

Without him, Rangers lost 3-0 at home to Heart of Midlothian last month because, industriously though they pressed forward, there was never the invention to disturb the composure that saw the visitors counter-attack so adroitly. On Saturday, Gascoigne always looked capable of raising the game to a level beyond the reach of adventurous Motherwell.

While Gascoigne concocted victory, Celtic, at Brockville, recorded a second successive goalless draw in away games. Tommy Burns's team is not quite so capable as Rangers of producing the explosive moment that breaks a deadlock. That fact is announced by the figures — Rangers have scored 15 goals more than Celtic in the league.

The three-point lead held by the Ibrox club can scarcely be decisive, given Celtic's bounding improvement this season, but Rangers' prospects of remaining in front over the next three months will be enhanced if Gascoigne can keep himself under control.

IAN WALDIE



Gascoigne shows his aggressive style against Motherwell

Conference big guns set sights on Wembley

NON-LEAGUE FOOTBALL
BY KEITH PIKE

THE standard-bearers may have fallen, but the heavy artillery of the Vauxhall Conference remains largely unscathed. Encouraged or alerted by Woking's surprise elimination from the FA Umbro Trophy, which they had won for the past two seasons, their Conference colleagues avoided any large-scale repeat of the embarrassment in the second round on Saturday.

There were some casualties, among them Altrincham, twice winners, but, on a day when every tie produced a decisive result, seven Conference sides got through to the last 16. Few will look beyond them for the eventual Wembley winners.

For Macclesfield Town and Stevenage Borough, the prospect of a Conference and Trophy double remains alive. Both capitalised on home advantage with 2-1 victories, Macclesfield accounting for Purfleet — shock previous conquerors of Rushden and Diamonds — and Stevenage beating Burton Albion thanks to a sixteenth goal of the season from Barry Hayles, the striker who is attracting considerable interest from leading senior clubs.

Altrincham, weakened by injury and suspension and tormented by Mick Norbury, were soundly beaten away to Guiseley and had Anderson sent off — their tenth dismissal of the season — in the process. Hyde United, Guiseley's UniBond League colleagues, claimed another Conference scalp, beating Welling United 4-1, Kimmins getting all four Hyde goals in the first half.

first direct

06:30



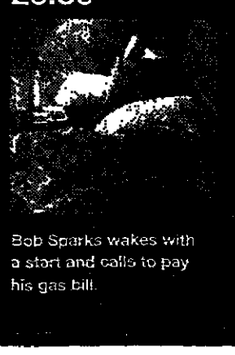
Ian Francis enjoys his breakfast and settles his Visa bill.

11:15



Jake O'Sullivan teases his mother as she asks about her mortgage.

23:30



Bob Sparks wakes with a start and calls to pay his gas bill.

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FOR THE RECORD

ATHLETICS

NATIONAL INDOOR ARENA, Birmingham: Ricoh Tour International: Men: 60m: 1 D Ezinwa (Nigeria) 6.58sec; 2. B Sum (Can) 6.62, 3. J Gardener (GB) 6.64 Invitational: 1, J John (Birchfield) 6.66, 2, K Williams (Cardiff) 6.72, 3, T Stamp (Newham) 6.76 200m, 1, G Moen (Nor) 20.69; 2. J Regis (GB) 20.86 3. J Williams (US) 20.92 B race: 1. D Turner (GB) 20.91, 2. N Eriksson (Swe) 21.11 3, J Golding (GB) 21.39 Invitational: 1, A Condon (Sale) 21.24 2. M Devonish (Coventry) 21.35 3, J Henthorn (Carmarthen) 21.64 400m: 1. D Hall (US) 45.39, 2. D Mills (US) 46.29, 3. D Ladejo (GB) 46.48 B race: 1. G Bullock (GB) 46.84 2. S Bada (Nigeria) 46.91 3, G Healy (GB) 48.42 1,000m: 1. V Melakwen (Isra) 2.19.11 2. A Logunov (Rus) 2.19.51, 3 B Koech (Ken) 2.19.55 Invitational 1,500m: 1. T West (Morpeth) 3.44.75 3, R Scanlon (Coventry) 3.46.49 3,000m: 1, M Kiptanui (Ken) 7.39.60 2, V Shabunin (Rus) 7.53.45; 3, O Olteanu (Rom) 7.53.80, 6 A Whiteman (GB) 7.57.59 60m hurdles. 1, A Jarrett (GB) 7.62, 2. A Johnson (US) 7.66 3. C Hawkins (US) 7.66 High jump: 1. S Smith (GB) 2.36, 2. S Hoen (Nor) 2.34, 3. P Sjoberg (Swe) 2.31 Invitational shot: 1, S Hayward (Sale) 17.61m, 2. L Newman (Belgrave) 17.18 3, D Callaway (Hanngey) 16.53 Pole vault: 1 D Starkey (US) 5.80 2. A Twentschik (Ger) and N Buckfield (GB) both at 5.50 Women: 60m: 1, C Opara (Nigeria) 7.20, 2. B McDonald (Jam) 7.24, 3. M Richardson (GB) 7.35 400m: 1, D Hemmings (Jam) 53.16; 2, J Campbell (Jam) 53.21, 3, E Nicholson (Ire) 53.81. 1,000m. 1. M Mutola (Moz) 3.32.08 (world record), 2 C Sacramento (Por) 2.35.85, 3, N Dukhnova (Bela) 2.35.89 60m hurdles: 1, G Russell (Jam) 8.03, 2. M Taylor (US) 8.14 3 M Guaiido (US) 8.30, 4. C Court (GB) 8.41 High jump: 1. D Marti (GB) 1.85; 2. M Dunkley (GB) 1.86, 3. M Gottner (Austria) 1.86 Triple jump: 1, A Haysen (GB) 14.58 (Commonwealth, UK national and UK all-comers records), 2. I Prandzheva (Bul) 14.56, 3, I Lasovskaya (Rus) 14.52 Pole vault: 1. A Mutor (Ger) 3.90; 2, S Abramova (Rus) 3.90 3, A Balakhnova (Ukr) 3.70 4, L Stanton (GB) 3.70

PARIS: French Open indoor championships: Second day: Men: 400m: P-M Hilaire (Fr) 46.76sec 60m hurdles: D Prebert (Fr) 7.62. Triple jump: Y Quesada (Cuba) 17.53m Women. 400m: L Berna (Fr) 52.63sec 3,000m: B Blazner (Fr) 9mn 4.94sec 60m hurdles: B Bukovec (Slovenia) 7.80 Shot: A Humbermuss (Ger) 19.43m

CRYSTAL PALACE: Puma indoor Grand Prix Open: Men: 60m: M Giraud (Hercules Wimbledon) 6.9 60m hdls M Clements (Hanngey) 8.2 High jump: D Turner (Havant) and M Lloyd (Bexley Borough) at 2.3m Long jump: R Park (Vale of Aylesbury) 6.43m Triple jump: J Leaver (Team Solent) 14.84m Pole vault: R Bell (Thurrock) 4m Shot: J Mason (Belgrave) 16.17m Women: 60m: T Nelson (GEC Awgoneg) 7.7 High jump: M Smith (Team Solent) and J Gordon (Andover) 1.66m Long jump: L Draper (Horsham Blue Star) 5.66m Triple jump: K Denham (Blackheath) 11.49m. Pole vault: J Cochrane (Belgrave) 2.80m. 60m hurdles: N Danvers (Croydon) 8.6 Shot: J Oakes (Croydon) 17.96m

CROSS COUNTRY: (Lisbon): IAAF event: Men: 10km: 1. E Isenbem (Bri 29:58. 2, J Kanuki (Ken) 30:03, 3, C Nyberg (Swe) 30:05. 4, J Ramos (Por) 30:06: 5, C Ormeyo (Ken) 30.07: 6, C Montero (Por) 30:16. British: 8 P Evans (Belgrave) 30:27 Standings: 1, Kanuki 97, 2. P Mosima (Ken) 64, 3, A Pearson (GB/Longwood) 58: 4, Montero 54. 5. S Koroha (Ken) 47; 6, D Komen (Ken) 44. Britain: 10, C Sweeney (Tipton) 40. 13, J Nuttall (Preston) 32, 20, Evans 27: 30, K Cullen (Chelmsford) and S Brooks (Bingley) 22. Women: 6km: 1, G Szabo (Rom) 19.45, 2, F Ribero (Por) 19.47. 3, P Radcliffe (GB/Bedford) 19.49; 4, S Stalkuviene (Ltth) 20.21, 5, A Sergent (Fr) 20.26 6, J Koech (Ken) 20.32. British: 9, V McPherson (Glasgow) 20.40, 12, A Wyeth (Parkside Harrow) 21.03, 13, L Talbot (Bedford) 21.07. 18, J Oldfield (Kettering) 22.48 Standings: 1. R Cheruiyot (Ken) 91, 2. E Fidatov (Rom) 79, 3, Radcliffe 69 British: standings: 14, S Rigg (Wennington) and McPherson 41. 18, Wyeth 32

BASKETBALL

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION (NBA) Atlanta 98 Washington 92, Charlotte 116 Sacramento 105, Dallas 136 Utah 133 (2nd OT), Denver 115 LA Clippers 95, Phoenix 107 New Jersey 102.

BUDWEISER LEAGUE: Manchester 111 Newcastle 56 Hemel 81 Chester 65, Thames Valley 77 Leicester 73, Worthing 86 Leopards 80.

BOWLS

LIBERTY TROPHY: Semi-finals (Tamworth) Cornwall 124 Durham 105 (Foxhill) Wiltshire 127 Essex 105.

BOXING

ROME: International Boxing Federation junior-bantamweight championship (12rds). Carlos Salazar (Arg, holder) bt Antonello Melis (It) tko 6th.

LAS VEGAS: International Boxing Federation welterweight championship (12rds): Felix Trinidad (P Rico, holder) bt Rodney Moore (US) tko 4th.

LAS VEGAS: Professional Non-title junior-welterweight bouts: Julios Cesar Chavez (Mex) bt Scott Walker (US) ko 2nd, Oscar De la Hoya (US) bt Darryl Tyson (US) ko 2nd

CRICKET

RED STRIPE CUP (second day of four). Bridgetown: Leeward Islands 446, Barbados 185 and 141-1 (Roseau): Windward Islands 234 and 71-2, Guyana 125. (Port of Spain) Trinidad and Tobago 408, Jamaica 137-7

CASTLE CUP (third day of four). (Johannesburg, no play due to rain) Boland 206, Transvaal 365, Pretoria (no play due to rain) Northern Transvaal 213 Natal 167-6. Bloemfontein: Eastern Province 391 and 240-5. Free State 317 Cape Town: Western Province 266 and 230, Border 260 and 138-4

SHEFFIELD SHIELD (final day of four): Hobart: Tasmania 25-8 dec, South Australia 0-0 dec and 280-4, South Australia beat Tasmania by six wickets

CYCLING

CYCLO-CROSS: BOCA inter-area team championship (Bramcote Park, Nottingham, 12 miles) T Gould (Team Schwinn-North West A) 1hr 1min 58sec Teams: North West A (T Gould, S Green, S Green, S Douce) 25pts. Notts and Derbys League (Bramcote Park, Nottingham, 11 miles): D Baker (Team GT) 53.47 Eastlands Velo (Boggart Hole Clough, Manchester, 11 miles): R Thackray (Bradford Olympic RC) 46.20.

ROAD RACES: Perf's Pedal Race (Meonstoke, Hampshire, 46 miles): B Fleming (Cannons Sports Club) 2.02.00. Mid-Devon CC Handicap (Bovey Tracey, 35 miles). A Parker (Mid-Devon CC) 1.24.10.

TIME-TRIALS: Kingston Wheelers Sporting (Ripley, Surrey, 14 miles) 1 Murray (Tweedsmuir CC) 34.36. Teams: Tweedsmuir CC 1.47.45 (record). Ely and District CC Handrikers (Ely, Cambridgeshire, 25 miles): J King (Pro Circuit) 57.11 Teams: Cambridge University CC 3.02.29. Bejaoas Wheelers (Stagsden, Bedfordshire, 18 miles): L Pick and J Harrow (Team Chiltern) 41.49

GOLF

SUN CITY: Men's PRO-AM Tournament: Final scores (SA unless stated): 282: M McNulty (Zim) 69, 67, 73, 73 286: N Price (Zim) 68, 72, 74, 72: R Wilson (GB) 73, 73, 72, 68, B Pappas 69, 77, 64, 76 287: A Cruse 73, 67, 73, 74 288: M Christie (US) 71, 73, 72, 72 289: T Dodds (Nam) 74, 72, 72, 71: P Moore (US) 72, 73, 71, 73, M Gorsane 71, 73, 72, 73 290: D Smyth (Ire) 73, 73, 73, 71; M Wills (GB) 77, 67, 73, 73, J McHenry (Ire) 72, 71, 73, 74, G Evans (GB) 72, 72, 69, 77 291: S van Vuuren 76, 70, 75, 70: M Haltberg (Swe) 71, 72, 77, 71, P Horgan (US) 72, 73, 75, 71: B Lincoln 75, 72, 73, 71, I Woosnam (GB) 74, 72, 74, 71, D Pappas 72, 69, 76, 72, P Quinn (Switz) 73, 70, 75, 73; E Darcy (Ire) 73, 73, 72, 73, T Bjorn (Den) 72, 73, 69, 77, 292: G Turner (NZ) 72, 72, 75, 73; R Burns (GB) 75, 69, 74, 74, M du Toit 74, 71, 73 74, S Struwer (Ger) 68, 75, 74, 75; T Gogele (Ger) 72, 70, 75, 75 293: C Davison (GB) 71, 74, 76, 72; D J Russell (GB) 73, 71, 76, 73, 295: A Cejka (Ger) 71, 75, 74, 74 296: C Cewer (Fr) 74, 68, 77, 77 298: M Board (US) 73, 69, 75, 81 299: R Butcher (US) 71, 73, 77, 78, D Howell (GB) 74, 72, 73, 80, 303: F Nobilo (NZ) 73, 74, 80, 76.

ADELAIDE: South Australian Open Tournament: Final scores (Aus unless stated) 284: G Norman 74, 72, 69, 69, 285: J L Guepy (Fr) 72, 71, 71, 71, 288: G Joyner 67, 70, 77, 72 P O'Malley 73, 77, 68, 68, 287: P Tataurangi (NZ) 77, 69, 71, 70, 289: B Hughes 67, 73, 74, 75, C Parry 73, 75, 71, 70: G Chalmers 69, 72, 74, 74, 290: D Dunakey (US) 72, 73, 72, 73, G Moorhead (NZ) 74, 75, 70, 71: L Stephan 72, 75, 78, 69, P McWhinney 77, 69, 70, 74, 291: D I Smith 71, 75, 72, 73, L Wadle 70, 75, 73, 73 292: D Smail (NZ) 75, 78, 73, 66, J Wagger 72, 74, 74: J Cleland 73, 73, 74, 72, S Tait 72, 75, 71, 74, W Grady 72, 76, 69, 76, Other scores: 294: B Ogle 73, 70, 74, 77; S Jackson (GB) 75, 75, 72, 71; J O'Keale (US) 78, 70, 74, 72: P Moss (US) 75, 72, 78, 69: 295: E Mizoguchi (Japan) 73, 73, 77, 72: R Gibson (Can) 77, 70, 72, 76 296: B Wright (US) 74, 78, 70, 74, 298: P Teravainen (USA) 78, 74, 67, 81.

CHON BURI: Thailand Open Championship: Final scores: 271: T Barranger (USA 69, 69, 65, 68 276: R Moss (US) 70, 69, 68, 69 278: J Rutledge (Can) 72, 71, 70, 65. Shin Yong-Jin (Kor) 70, 68, 68, 72 T Hamilton (US) 71, 69, 69, 69; E Rustan (US) 71, 71, 70, 66; C Lamain (Ven) 70, 71, 71, 66.

LA JOLLA, California: Buick Invitational: Third-round scores (US unless stated): 201: L Clements 64, 65, 72, 202: K Triplett 63, 70, 68, 203: M O'Meara 65, 72, 66; J Pannevik (Swe) 68, 67, 68, J Adams 68, 67, 68, T Lehman 63, 70, 70 204: P Mickelson 68, 70, 66; K Gibson 68, 70, 68; S Simpson 66, 69, 69; M Wiebe 69, 68, 69: M Calcavecchia 68, 66, 70; J Wilson 65, 68, 73, Other scores: 206: C Stadler 70, 69, 66 208: S Ellington (Aus) 68, 72, 68, 209: N Faldo (GB) 69, 70, 70.

NAPLES, Florida: US Senior PGA Tour: Leading second-round scores (US unless stated): 131: A Geiberger 68, 63 134; R Floyd 67, 67, 136: S Hobday 66, 67, J McGee 68, 67; J Powell 67, 68, 138 I Aoki 68, 68, B Crampton 66, 70

HOCKEY

NATIONAL LEAGUE: First Division: Saturday: Basford 1 Z Bournville 1; Guildford 5 Havant 2, Indian Gymkhana 0 Canterbury 2, O Loughtonians 6 Hull 0; Southgate 4 Teddington 0; St Albans 1 Cannock 7, Stourport 1 East Grinstead 4; Trojans 2 Surbiton 2. Yesterday: Reading 2 Hounslow 0. Second Division: Saturday: Bluehams 2 Beeston 4; Portsmouth 3 Crosby 1, Ellesbston 2 Harleston M 0; Gloucester C 3 Bromley 2; Oxford Universit 1 Isca 0; Richmond 1 Doncaster 4; Sheffield 2 Firebrands 2, Slough 5 Olton and West Warwicks 1 Yesterday: Brooklands 3 Hampstead and Westminster 0

DTZ DEBENHAM THORPE LEAGUE: Premier division: Hampton in Arden 1 John Player 0; Harbourne 7 Bridgnorth 1; Khalsa 1 Belper 4; Loughborough Students 0 North Notts 0; Nottingham 3 Bloswich 1.

NASTRO AZZURRO LEAGUE: Premier League: , Anchorians 4 Wokingham 0; Beckenham 1 Lions 1, Bournemouth 0 Lewes 0; Fareham 2 High Wycombe 3; Gore Court 2 Chichester 3; Maidenhead 3 O Walcountians 3, O Kingstonians 2 Woking 1; Oxford Hawks 2 Wimbledon 1, Spencer 0 Newbury 0; Winchester 5 Ashford 1, Hampshire/Surrey: Andover 1 Cobham 2; Basingstoke 6 Walton and Weybridge 0, Blandford 1 Purley 4; Chesm 0 O Wokingtians 3; Dulwich 1 Solent H.C. 1; London University 2 O, Edwardians 1; O Cranleighans 2 Barnes 4-5; Oxted 1 Camberley 6; Petersfield 1 S Epsom 3; Southampton 1 O Mid Whitgiftians 4 Kent/Sussex: Belvedere 2 Brighton 2; Crawley 1 Bexley Invicta 4; Herne Bay 3 Blackheath 3, Horsham 1 Tulse Hill 2; Marden Russets 5 Worthing 2; Middleton 4 Bedeyheath 2, Mid Sussex 5 Bognor 1; O Bordenians 2 Tunbridge W 7; O Holcombians 6 O Beccehamians 3; O Williamsonians 2 Sevenoaks 1. Middy/ Barks/Bucks and Oxon: ETESSA 0 Amersham 5; Marlow 0 Staines 5; Mill Hill 0 Hayes 5; Milton Keynes 5 HCC 0; NPL 1 Hendon 2; OMT 1 Eastcote 2; PHC Chiswick 5 Harrow 1; Ramgarhis 1 Oxford 0; Rishings 2 2 Bracknell 2 Sunbury 1 Headington 0.

NORTH LEAGUE: First division: Formby 2 Neston 0, Sheffield Bankers 3 Harrogate 1; Southport 6 Ben Rhydding 1; Warrington 1 Timperley 0. Postponed: Halifax v Norton. ADNAMS EAST LEAGUE: Premier division A: Bury St Edmunds 0 Bishops Stortford 1; Cambridge 3 Bedford 1; Cambridge Univ 8 Colchester 0, Peterborough Town 3 Chelmsford 1; Redbridge and Ilford 0 Ipswich 1. Premier division B: Brentwood 0 Clacton 6; Ipswich and East Suffolk 0 Blenheim 1; Stevenage 0 Old Southendian 6; Sudbury 2 Romford 2; Wescliff 1 Norwich City 4

SUN LIFE WEST PREMIER LEAGUE: First division: Bristol 4 Whitchurch 2, Exeter Univ 2 Bath Bucos 2, Plymouth 1 Cheltenham 0; Robinsons 1 Weston-Super-Mare 1 Postponed: Taunton Vale v Swansea.

LUCKNOW, India: India Gandhi Men's Gold Cup Tournament: Final: South Korea 3 India 2. Third place play-off: Australia 5 United States 1.

WELSH WOMEN'S CUP: Quarter-final: Colwyn Bay 2, Newtown 1.

CRYSTAL PALACE: English indoor championships: Group A: Stourport 5 Hull 6; Barford Tigers 3 Hull 7; Barford T 8 Stourport 10. Final standings: 1 Hull 4pts; 2 Stourport 2, 3 Barford 0. Group B: E Grinstead 5 St Albans 6; Old Loughtonians 7 East Grinstead 4, St Albans 4, Old Loughtonians 4. Final standings: 1 Loughtonians 9, 2 St Albans 3; 3 E Grinstead 0. Finat: Hull 5 Old Loughtonians 6. Schools: Whitgift 4 Kingston GS 6.

PERTH: Scottish women's Indoor Cup: Semi-finals: Edinburgh Ladies 3, Western 8, Hyndland 2, Bon Accord 2. Final: Western 10, Bon Accord 0.

WOMEN'S REGIONAL LEAGUES: South: Camberley 1 Hampstead 5; Portsmouth 1 Winchester 3; W Witney 3 Southampton 2, Winchmore H 1 Dulwich 1; Worming 0 Hendon 2. West: E Globe aster 1 Cotleall 1; Redland 1 Cheltenham 1; St Austell 2 Bournemouth 3; Yate 2 Leamington 2.

CLUBS MATCHES: Blackburn 0 Doncaster 2, Bournemouth 3 Wrens 2; Canterbury 3 Old Loughtonians 1, Guildford 6 Wimbledon 2; Harleston M 1 Chelmsford 3; Poynton 2 Nth Staffs 0; Reading 0 Bracknell 2; St Albans 1 Redbridge 0; Totnes 2 Woking 0; Bedens 3 Doncaster 2, York 1 Worksop 0.

JUDO

PARIS: International Tournament: Finals: Men: Over-95kg: N Ogawa (Japan) bt R Kubacki (Pol). Under-95kg: P Nastula (Pol, Gold) bt R Soares (Por, Silver). Under-86kg: A Croitoru (Rom) bt M Tanabe (Japan). Under-78kg: D Vandis (Fr) bt D Bousse (Fr). Under-71kg: Y Watanuki (Japan) bt C Cagliero (Fr). Women: Under-48kg: A Sanda (Cuba) bt Y Soler (Sp). Under-56kg: I Basurcuta (Fr) bt N Yokoseki (Ger). Under-61kg: K Sakami (Cuba) bt D Bell (GB). Under-72kg: N Sugawara (Japan) bt L Tignola (Fr).

LACROSSE

SHEPHERDS FRIENDLY SOCIETY LEAGUE: Premier division: Old Waconians 10 Timperley 11. Postponed: Cheadle Hulme v Heaton Mersey; Sheffield Steelers v Poynton.

DAILY TELEGRAPH LANCASHIRE CUP: Semi-final: Ashton A 6 Boslidnian and Eccles A 9.

DAILY TELEGRAPH SENIOR FLAGS: Semi-final: Hillcroft 8 Hampstead 18.

DAILY TELEGRAPH JUNIOR FLAGS: Semi-final: Cheadle A 15 Nottingham University 8.

WOMEN'S TERRITORIAL CHAMPIONSHIPS: Midlands 6 North 3, East 2 West 7; South 9 Bucs 1; East 7 Midlands 4.

MOTOR RALLYING

KARLSTAD, Sweden: Rally: Final stage: 1, Makinen (Fin, Mitsubishi) 4hr 37min 10sec; 2, C Sainz (Sp, Ford) at 23sec; 3, C McRae (Scot, Subaru) at 1.05; 4, J Kankkunen (Fin, Toyota) 1.26; 5, K Eriksson (Swe, Subaru) 2.26.

RUGBY LEAGUE

Silk Cut Challenge Cup

Fourth round

Whitehaven	6	Halifax	18

Whitehaven: Try: Seads. Goal: Anderson. Halifax: Tries: Ellis, Tullagi. Goals: Umaga 5. Att: 1,816

Waddington	10	Widnes	17

Waddington: Tries: L Smith, Wallace. Goal: Marwood. Widnes: Tries: John Devereux 2. Goals: Tyrer 4. Dropped goal: Tyrer. Att: 2,339.

Fifth round

Hull	42	Keighley	10

Hull: Tries: Cassidy, Danby, Divorty, Kitching, R Nolan, Vallone 2. Goals: Gray 3, McNamara 4. Keighley: Tries: Berry, Hinchcliffe. Goal: Irving. Att: 3,498.

Leigh	12	Bradford	44

Leigh: Tries: Cheetham, Davies. Goals: Wilkinson 2. Bradford: Tries: Cook, Hassan 2, Knox 2, Loughlin, Medley, Scales. Goals: Cook 6. Att: 4,100.

Rochdale	20	St Helens	58

Rochdale: Tries: Churm, Greenwood, Miller 2. Goals: Boobb 2. St Helens: Tries: Arnold 3, Gibbs 2, K Cunningham, Newlove 2, Prescott, Sullivan 3. Goals: Goulding 5. Att: 3,503.

Salford	26	Wigan	16

Salford: Tries: Martin, Naylor 2, Young. Goals: Blakeley 5. Wigan: Tries: Offiah, Tuigamala 2. Goals; Farrell, Paul. Att: 10,048.

Saturday

Warrington	10	Leeds	30

Warrington: Tries: Finau, Stafford. Goal: Harris. Leeds: Tries: Cummins, Hall 2, Holroyd, Howard, Innes. Goals: Holroyd 3.

NATIONAL CONFERENCE LEAGUE: Premier division: Haworth 18 Mayfield 6; Wigston 17 Lock Lane 8.

SNOOKER

WEMBLEY CONFERENCE CENTRE: Benson and Hedges Masters: Semi-finals: R O'Sullivan (Eng) bt A Hicks (Eng) 6-1; S Handy (Scot) bt A McManus (Scot) 6-4.

SCHOOLS SPORT

FOOTBALL: English Wimbledon Cup: Gravesham 1 Bromley 2, London Corinthian Shield: Havering 5 Barn 0; Surrey Black Trophy: Richmond 0 Croydon 9, Kent Taylor Trophy: North Kent 6 Shepway 0, Kay Trophy: Islington 0 South London 5; Yorkshire Trophy: Spen Valley 0 Hull 4, Vernon League: Southern Area: St Helens 5, Essex: Finch Shield: Havering 1 Redbridge 1, Watkin Cup: Brent 2 Barnet 3, Yorkshire Cup: Under-13: Hull 1 Huddersfield 2, Under-11: Hull 5 Huddersfield 2, English Schools Goodyear under-16 Trophy: Second round: Newlands, Middlesbrough 2 Wolfreton, Hull 3, Inter-Association: Ashford 2 Bexley 2, Dartford 2, Thanet 0; Hackney 7 Orpington 0; Leeds 0 Sheffield 2; Sutton 5 Wigan 1, Worksop: English Schools' Midlands seven-a-side championships: Semi-finals: Stoke 1 Bessellow 0 (AET); East Riding 1 Derby 0. Final: East Riding 1 Stoke 0; Romford: Essex six-a-side championships: Redbridge 1 Newham 0; Thurrock 0 Havering 2; Barking 3 Redbridge 3; Newham 1 Thurrock 0, Havering 2 Redbridge 2, Newham 0; Barking 0, Thurrock 2 Redbridge 1; Havering 1 Barking 0; Thurrock 3 Barking 0, Newham 0 Havering 1. Winners: Havering.

Runners-up: Thurrock. Woking: English Schools Wagon Wheels: five-a-side indoor championships: southern region: Girls: Isle of Wight 0 Guildford 3; Southampton 3 Spelthorne 1. Boys: Guildford 2 Southampton 1. Final: Guildford 2 Southampton 1. Boys: Gravesham 2 Maidstone 5, Canterbury 0 Merton 1. Final: Maidstone 5 Merton 4

RUGBY: Dartford G.S 5 St Ignatius 10; John Fisher 34 Judd 0, Lancing 14 Chichester HS 24, St Joseph's 97 Eltham 0.

TENNIS

DAVIS CUP: World Group: First round: Second day: (Rome): Italy level with Russia 2-2 (Italy names first) A Gaudenzi bt A Chesnokov 2-6, 6-7, 7-6, 6-3, 6-1; R Furlan lost to Y Kafelnikov 3-6, 7-6, 4-6, 3-6; Gaudenzi and D Nargiso (It) bt Kafelnikov and A Olhovskiy 6-4, 2-6, 5-7, 7-6, 8-4; Gaudenzi lost to Kafelnikov 6-3, 3-6, 7-6, 7-6. (Pizen): Czech Republic leads Hungary 3-0 (Czech Republic names first): D Vacek bt J Krocsko 6-3, 6-3, 6-4, P Korda bt S Noszaly 6-2, 7-5, 6-3; C Suk and Vacek bt G Kouves and Noszaly 6-7, 6-7, 7-6, 6-4, (Jaipur): India 3 Holland 2 (Holland names first): J Ettingh bt L Paes 6-4, 7-5, 6-4, J Siemerink lost to M Bhupathi 4-6, 6-7, 6-4, 6-4, 4-6; P Haarhuis and Ettingh bt Paes and Bhupathi 3-6, 6-2, 7-6, 6-4. (Geneva): Germany 5 Switzerland 0 (German names first): D Prinosil bt J Hlasek 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 4-6, 6-4; H Dreekmen bt M Rosset 6-3, 6-1, 6-4; M Stich and Prinosil bt Hlasek and A Strambini 6-2, 7-5, 6-2, A Strambini lost to D Prinosil 6-3, 6-3, J Hlasek lost to H Dreekmann 6-4, 6-4, (Kobenshorn): Sweden 4 Belgium 1 (Sweden names first): M Larsson bt F Dewulf 6-3, 7-5, 7-6; T Enqvist bt D Norman 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; J Bjorkman and N Kulti bt Dewulf and Norman 6-3, 6-1, 6-4, T Enqvist lost to J van Herck 5-7, 2-6, M Larsson bt D Norman 7-6, 6-4. (Besancon): France lead Denmark 3-0 (France names first): G Forget bt K Carlsen 6-4, 7-6, 5-7, 7-6, C Pioline bt F Fetterien 4-6, 6-1, 6-1, 6-3, Forget and G Raoux bt Carlsen and Fetterlein 4-6, 6-3, 7-6, 6-3, A Strambini lost to D Prinosil 6-3, 6-3, J Hlasek lost to H Dreekmann 6-4, 6-4, (Kobenshorn): Sweden 4, Belgium 1 (Sweden names first): M Larsson bt F Dewulf 6-3, 7-5, 7-6; T Enqvist bt D Norman 6-4, 6-3, 6-1; J Bjorkman and N Kulti bt Dewulf and Norman 6-3, 6-1, 6-4, T Enqvist lost to J van Herck 5-7, 2-6, M Larsson bt D Norman 7-6, 6-4,

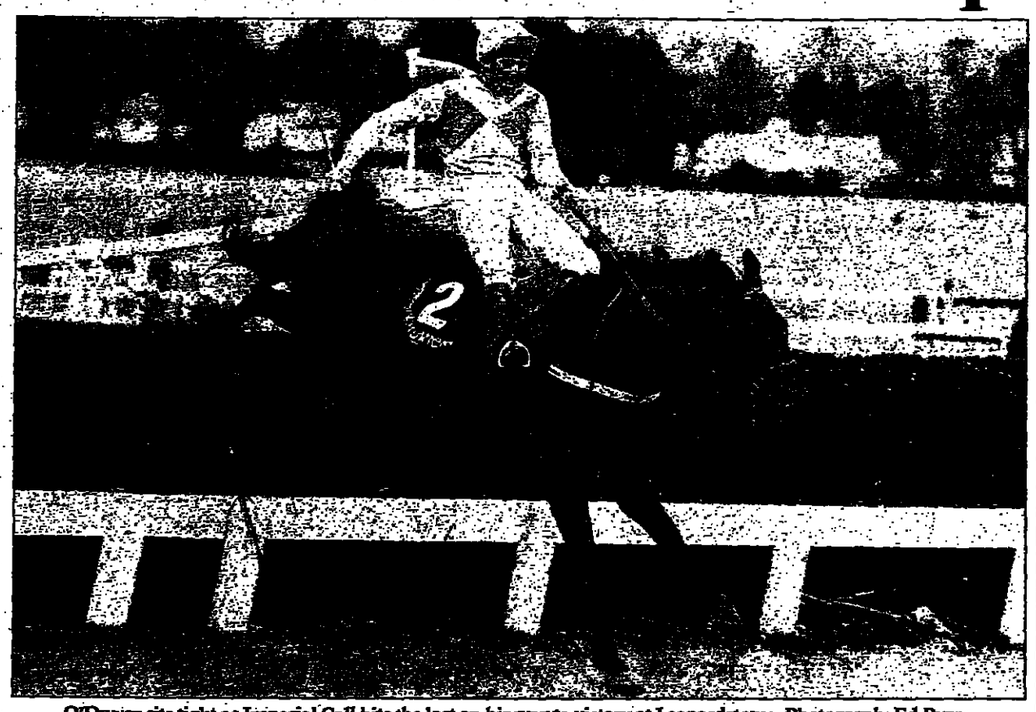
Ireland produces live Festival hope at Leopardstown

Imperial Call 5-1 for Gold Cup

FROM JULIAN MUSCAT AT LEOPARDSTOWN

IMPERIAL CALL thrust himself firmly into contention for the Cheltenham Gold Cup with a resounding display of front-running in the Irish equivalent here yesterday.

The seven-year-old, previously unproven over three miles, disposed of Master Oats and Monsieur Le Cure with a flourish to match One Man's defeat of the same pair at Sandown last month. He outclassed the twin-pronged British challenge with a series of quicksilver leaps and looks a formidable opponent for Britain's grey standard bearer at Prestbury Park next month.



O'Dwyer sits tight as Imperial Call hits the last on his way to victory at Leopardstown. Photograph: Ed Byrne

Imperial Call's six-length tally from Master Oats — with Monsieur Le Cure a further 1½ lengths adrift — may not, at face value, appear as emphatic as One Man's demolition of the same opponents.

Yet Master Oats, in the words of his trainer, Kim Bailey, "jumped better than he ever has before". He certainly looked an improved animal on this occasion. Imperial Call's demonstration of authority arrived at the final fence. He met it on the wrong stride and hit the obstacle hard, inviting a renewed challenge from Jamie Osborne, aboard Master Oats.

The ground, officially soft, was to the reigning Gold Cup winner's liking, yet Imperial Call drew away from the toiling mudlark when he might have been excused for tiring himself. A top-priced 8-1 for Cheltenham with Coral, Imperial Call is as short as 5-1 with Ladbrokes.

As with Danoli, Ireland's prize hurdler, Imperial Call hails from a small stable. Fergus Sutherland may train just six horses on his Cork-based farm, but he possesses a wealth of experience. Noted for his prowess in Flat handicaps, he also sent out the juvenile, A.20, to land the Queen Mary Stakes when operating out of Newmarket more than 30 years ago. "Any fool can win a two-year-old race," Sutherland reflected of his time in Britain, "but I have always preferred to knock a jumper into shape."

Before this victory, Imperial Call had mixed it with a vintage crop of two-milers, even though his pedigree reads like that of a staying chaser. "There's no doubt the winner is a very good horse," Bailey reflected. "We would need very soft ground next time to have a chance of reversing the form."

John Edwards was equally pleased with Monsieur Le Cure. "He made two mistakes which stopped him in his tracks," he said. "I am very happy because he did not like the sticky going."

Conor O'Dwyer, who rode Imperial Call with assurance, is far from certain to keep the ride in the Gold Cup. Charlie Swan, the horse's regular partner, was, on this occasion, claimed for Life Of A Lord, who ran an excellent Grand National trial in fourth place.

Norman Williamson, who was due to ride Master Oats yesterday, dislocated his shoulder at Newbury on Saturday, just two rides into his comeback from a four-month absence with a broken leg. Williamson is expected to be out of action for at least two weeks and misses the ride on Alderbrook, the reigning champion hurdler, at Wincanton a week on Thursday.

The jockey's latest setback came when Eskimo Nel, his mount in the Tote Gold Trophy, crashed out of the contest. The race was won decisively by the Andy Turnell-trained Squire Silk, a best-priced 33-1 for the Champion Hurdle. Highlight of Newbury's card on Saturday was Viking Flagship's long-awaited return to form in the Game Spirit Chase under Adrian Maguire. Viking Flagship's projected Champion Chase encounter with Sound Man and Strong Platinum has the makings of a stirring renewal.

Swinburn fall, page 1

RICHARD EVANS

Nap: FORESTAL
(5.00 Hereford)

Next best: I'm A Dreamer
(3.00 Hereford)

Richard Evans was in fine form at Newbury on Saturday. He napped Squire Silk (13-2) and also selected River Lossie (6-1) and Viking Flagship (5-2).

Going: soft

5.45 HENNESSY COGNAC GOLD CUP (Grade I: £48,750: 3m)

1, IMPERIAL CALL (C O'Dwyer, 4-1); 2, Master Oats (5-4 fav); 3, Monsieur Le Cure (5-2). ALSO RAN: 5 Flashing Steel (8th), 8 Life Of A Lord (pu), 33 Son Of War (4th), 50 Nuaffe, 100 Loshian (5th); 8 ran. 6l, 1¼l, 13l. dist. F Sutherland (Ire). Tote: £6.20; £1.80, £1.40, £1.50. DF: £6.80. CSF: £10.10.

Whitley unearths Fallon on performance figures

Kieran Fallon is the best. No, not at riding injudicious races on horses like Top Cees. No, not at making occasional physical contact with other jockeys rather than racehorses. Fallon shares the honour with Frankie Dettori of being the best performing Flat jockey riding in Britain.

After enduring more clashes with racing officialdom than he might care to remember — the latest in India nine days ago — the northern-based jockey can afford a wry smile as he savours the conclusions of riding performance figures in the *Computer Racing Form* annual covering the 1995 Flat season, published today.

I suspect the sense of irony will not be lost on Lynda and Jack Ramsden, who have retained complete faith in their stable jockey throughout his much-publicised disciplinary troubles.

The riding performance figures are unique. They are not the subjective view of John Whitley, whose Racing Research company produces the annual, but rather the result of exhaustive examination by a computer of how each horse has performed under its different jockeys during a season. The ratings, which are given in pounds to the nearest tenth, are restricted to riders for whom there is a large amount of data.

Racing's flat earthers who question the idea of being able to rate jockeys, lose sight of how these figures regularly pinpoint leading riders before their skills have gained widespread recognition.

Michael Roberts topped the figures in 1992, the year before he became champion jockey, having been a 100-1 chance at the start of that season. Last summer, Tony McCoy finished in pole position after the 1994-95 jumps season. "These ratings are regarded as invaluable by the cleverest backers," the annual states correctly — one of whom just happens to be Jack Ramsden.

RICHARD EVANS



Racing commentary

Fallon and Dettori earned a rating of 12.8 on a scale where the average is 10.0. In practice, a horse ridden by them would run 2.8lb better — equivalent to a length or more in races — than when ridden by Philip Robinson, Richard Hills and Jimmy Quinn, who are on 10.0.

The other riders who earned a rating of 12.0 or more were Ray Cochrane, John Reid, Tony Ives, Jimmy Fortune, Jason Weaver, Richard Quinn, Brett Doyle, Wendyll Woods, Walter Swinburn and Brent Thomson.

As my regular reader will know by now, when it comes to assessment of form and attempting not to tip too many losers, I lean heavily on the Whitley form and speed ratings for horses. I liken them to the bricks while the mortar, in the shape of breeding information, running styles, interpretation of performance and potential, is provided by eagle-eyed *Timeform* gurus at Halifax, where Whitley worked before setting up on his own.

Timeform's Racehorses annual for the last Flat season is due out shortly and should help to answer some fascinating posers raised by Whitley's computer-based ratings for last summer.

Royal Applause, the unbeaten winner of the Coventry, Gimcrack and Middle Park Stakes, is rated 5lb superior to Alhaarth and also recorded the best time performance by any two-year-old in 1995. Will Barry Hills's star stay a mile?

Interestingly, Bosra Sham is rated 2lb ahead of Blue Duster and her Fillies' Mile victory at Ascot was also a tip-top performance against the clock. Will the ground determine the outcome of the 1,000 Guineas?

After the recent cold snap, the questions may appear premature but, with Cheltenham only a month away and the Flat due to start a week later, the anticipation is already building up.

PLUMPTON

THUNDERER

1.50 Meant To Be — 3.20 Silverfort Lad
2.20 Air Shot — 3.50 Farmer's Tern
2.50 Touch Silver — 4.20 Proud Sun
4.50 BUCKLAND LAD (nap)

The Times Private Handicapper's top rating: 3.20 SILVERFORT LAD.

Carl Evans: 4.20 Stormhill Pilgrim.

GOING: SOFT (GOOD TO SOFT IN PLACES) TOTE JACKPOT MEETING SIS

1.50 SHEFFIELD PARK MARES ONLY NOVICES HURDLE
(£2,889: 2m 1f) (13 runners)

1		33-13	SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 80 (D,BF,S) (D Johnson) M Pipe 6-11-10	D Bridgwater	88
2		5604	ASHBY HILL 19 (Miss M Tabor) R Rowe 5-11-3	D O'Sullivan	78
3		1F60-0	DANCING BAREFOOT 21 (J Heritage) M Bolton 7-11-3	M Pennett	–
4		UP4RR1	DOMITOR'S LASS 637 (R Ledger) R Ledger 9-11-3	Miss N Ledger	–
5		25-3532	ELUSIVE STAR 13F (Chiltern Hills Racing Club) J White 6-11-3	P McLoughlin	73
6		000	LADY PENDRAGON 25 (J Aldersey) W Smith 7-11-3	Mr M Rodda	–
7		0	LORETTAS TREASURE 28 (Mrs R Doorgachum) R O'Sullivan 6-13-3	A Procter (5)	–
8		3323/40-	MARYJO 72F (G) (T Keane) Miss C Caroe 7-11-3	M A Fitzgerald	–
9		20	MEANT TO BE 3D (Lady Mary Mumford) Lady Herries 6-11-3	E Murphy	83
10		P005-00	URBAN LILY 34 (Mrs C Cole) R Hodges 6-11-3	J Harris (7)	83
11		0	GENTLE BREEZE 26 (D Trangmar) J Gifford 4-10-7	P Hide	–
12			LOVE THE BLUES 128F (Mrs C Smith) D Nicholson 4-10-7	A Maguire	–
13			STAR AMISE 159F (W & E Mumford (Racing)) Mrs D Haine 4-10-7	J Tilley	–

BETTING: 5-4 Seasonal Splendour, 5-2 Meant To Be, 4-1 Love The Blues, 10-1 Star Amise, 14-1 others.

1995: MEETING ABANDONED — FROST

FORM FOCUS

SEASONAL SPLENDOUR 11l 3rd to Wisley Wonder in novice hurdle at Ascot (2m 4f, soft) with MEANT TO BE (3lb better off) 20l 9th. ELUSIVE STAR 15l 2nd of 3 to Clowater Lady in novice hurdle at Huntingdon (2m 5f 110yd, good to firm). MEANT TO BE 14l 2nd of 15 to Badgemoss in novice hurdle at Uttoxeter (2m, good to firm). LOVE THE BLUES best Flat effort 6l 3rd to Cobuy in maiden at Sandown (1m 2f, good to soft). Selection: SEASONAL SPLENDOUR

2.20 HASSOCKS NOVICES CHASE (£3,098: 2m) (8 runners)

1		22D-U12	AIR SHOT 30 (D,6,S) (Mrs P Prowting) D Nicholson 6-11-12	A Maguire	88
2		32P33-4	CHEEKA 55 (D Thompson) C Smith 7-11-5	M Ranger	83
3		2-60032	RICHU 59 (F) (Mrs L Richards) Mrs L Richards 8-11-5	M Richards	91
4		24411	HEAD FOR HEAVEN 69 (S) (Kilcarry/O'Connell Racing) R Head 8-11-5	A S Smith	–
5		4F546-5	JIMMY THE JACKDAW 59 (V) (D Hollands) P Butler 9-11-5	M A Fitzgerald	50
6		1U2-JU0	NAMASTE 30 (6,S) (John Gabarron) R Head 8-11-5	G Bradley	–
7		P-35583	PRECIOUS WORDER 19 (D Butler) P Butler 7-11-5	T J Murphy (3)	60
8		0P7	SUNGROVE'S BEST 602F (A Holland) P Eccles 9-11-5	C Webb (5)	–

BETTING: 1-3 Air Shot, 8-1 Namaste, 10-1 Head For Heaven, 12-1 Richu, 16-1 Cheeka, 20-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

AIR SHOT 3l 2nd of 16 to Jibber The Kibbes in novice chase at Warwick (2m 4f 110yd, good to soft) CHEEKA best effort 24l 3rd of 5 to James The Fred in novice handicap chase at Southwell (2m, soft) HEAD FOR HEAVEN beat Challenger Rose 3l in 6-runner selling handicap hurdle here (2m 1f, soft). NAMASTE best recent effort 171/4l 3rd of 6 to Grooving in handicap hurdle at Fontwell (2m 2f, soft). Selection: AIR SHOT (nap)

2.50 COWFOLD CONDITIONAL JOCKEYS SELLING HANDICAP HURDLE
(£2,145: 2m 1f) (14 runners)

1		364-8	FARRANA 25 (D Barrows) T Naughton 6-12-0	M Payne (7)	80
2		6-0P0	SPARTS FAULT 25 (S) (Tidmarsh Racing Club) P Eccles 6-11-6	C Webb	–
3		3213-4P	ROSSILL 60 (6,S) (Grapefax Racing) J Wale 10-11-5	D Bolton (5)	88
4		143-430	MINSTER'S MADAM 26 (V,D,S) (J Neville) J Neville 5-11-4	D Flanagan (5)	85
5		4P21-P0	DO BE WARE 19 (CD,S) (J Fitch-Hayes) J Fitch-Hayes 6-10-8	S Fenton	89
6		U14-4-P0	TOUCH SILVER 20 (S) (H Manners) K Mahoney 6-10-6	S Curran	91
7		14-PPPP	MINT A MILLION 61 (S) (P Kirsten) M Blanshard 5-10-6	G Hogan	98
8		54-FR0	ROGER'S PAL 19 (CD,G,S) (A Moore) A Moore 9-10-2	M Batchelor (7)	94
9		06/3/	SHALOU 872 (R Hodges) R Hodges 7-10-0	S Laird (7)	–
10		PP05	BAY BOB 25F (B) (R Earle) T Casey 7-10-0	W Greatrex (7)	80
11		PP6	PRESIDENTIAL 25 (B) (A Richards) K Cunningham-Brown 5-10-0	W Worthington	80
12		345	RAFIQ 76 (Miss A Daly) Mrs L Jewell 5-10-0	T J Murphy	80
13		5-50600	PONTEVECCHIO BELLA 38 (B,C,S) (Miss H Clarke) Mrs L Llewell 10-10-0	W Walsh (5)	60
14		/4/36-00	LADY POLY 19 (G) (Harlequin Racing) J Poulton 8-10-0	M Gibson (5)	–

Long handicap: Shalou 9-12, Bay Bob 9-10, Presidential 9-8, Rafiq 9-8, Ponteveccbio Bella 9-7, Lady Poly 9-5

BETTING: 7-2 Touch Silver, 4-1 Minster's Madam, 5-1 Fabriana, 6-1 Rafiq, 10-1 Bay Bob, 16-1 others.

FORM FOCUS

MINSTER'S MADAM 10l 3rd of 9 to Checkbuddy in handicap hurdle at Exeter (2m 3f, good to firm) on penultimate start. DO BE WARE best effort best Haydock heard in 17-runner selling handicap hurdle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy) October 1994 with idle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy) October 1994 with idle at Plumpton (2m 1f, heavy) October 1994 with id

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Commanding victory takes Harlequins through to Pilkington Cup quarter-final

Andrew kick-starts Newcastle's plans to join top flight

Newcastle 22
Harlequins 44

By David Hands
Rugby Correspondent

ROB ANDREW will have to live with the speculation that, for the remainder of this season and possibly longer, will continue to link him with England. The reality for Newcastle's director of rugby, even after a 17-point return to the high life, is that everything that happens this season is preparation for a North Eastern explosion in 1996-97.

This is not to be dismissive of Harlequins, who moved comfortably into the quarter-finals of the Pilkington Cup, where they will meet Leicester, on the same weekend that their capture of Gareth Llewellyn, the Wales lock, was confirmed.

Llewellyn, capped 42 times and linked last November with Wasps, has been lured from Neath on a contract reported to be worth £250,000, and he may be but the first from the valleys to move up the M4.

Harlequins, though, were ever high rollers. The practical effect of the Newcastle revolution is just beginning. On Saturday, it was Andrew, Walton and Popplewell. Against Blackheath in the league next Saturday, Tony Underwood becomes available, to be followed by Gary Armstrong and Doddie Weir. Only when he can call on all his new purchases can Andrew begin building a genuine team.

"That is the task over the next three months, to blend the new guys in, so what we have is three months of practice for next season," Andrew said. "There's so much work to be done before we can get ourselves up alongside Harlequins — we have one or two more players to find, but there is no question about what the club is aiming for."

He will talk tomorrow with David Campese when New South Wales play the penultimate match of their tour at Newcastle, the Australia wing being a man to listen to any worthwhile business proposition. Perhaps Campese might have a word in the ear, too, of young Ian McLennan, whose day began so well with Newcastle's try and ended calamitously as Daren O'Leary whisked past him for five tries and a competition record.

The naivety of McLennan's defence removed some of the gloss from O'Leary's nap hand, but it was, nonetheless, a significant achievement by a wing whose career has not always run so smoothly. A product of Campion School, he moved rapidly up the representative ladder as a youngster before finding that the nitty-gritty of first-division life was more demanding.

Injuries led to a loss of confidence last season, but O'Leary has gritted his teeth and demonstrated that his representative ambitions have some basis. Mike Slemen, the England selector, suggested that he had played as well as any contender this season for an England wing position, a remark that is more pointed in view of O'Leary's Irish qualification on his father's side.

O'Leary, 22, a broker, has had no contact with the busy Irish Exiles organisation, but England, who have been so short of wing talent, can ill afford to let more players join the most recent green drain led by Chris Saverimutto and Simon Mason.

O'Leary was the principal beneficiary as Harlequins shrugged off the rustiness caused by recent disruptions from their game and ran Newcastle ragged. They did so with a No 8 whose ball-handling is well in advance of the present England back row, Lawrence Dallaglio excepted. Chris Sheasby has been his club's most consistent forward over the past three years, but has struggled to throw off the "flash" image attached to him as a youngster. Is it too facile to say that, at 29, his time for honours has gone since he is an active member of the England A squad?

In the second half, Harlequins were well aware that, ball in hand, they had more firepower than Newcastle, and, with a strong wind at their backs, they had to make it tell: but, as England have discovered, the handling game has to be worked at and it was the final quarter before they romped away.

They started and finished the first half well, but Andrew's kicking (six successes from seven attempts) reeled in an initial 10-0 lead. However, a tight Newcastle pack could not conceal deficiencies in a midfield lacking the injured Wilkinson and Childs.

The more that Harlequins ran, the better they became. Staples and Bromley created, O'Leary finished and Challinor looked far more like the goalkicker that he used to be than a man who has just taken six weeks away from practice to come to terms with his lost art.

QUARTER-FINALS

Bristol v Bath
Gloucester v Wasps
Leicester v Harlequins
London Irish v West Hartlepool
☐ *Ties to be played on February 24*

SCORERS: Newcastle: Try: McLennan. Conversion: Andrew. Penalty goals: Andrew (5). Harlequins: Tries: O'Leary (5), Greenwood, Mensah. Conversions: Challinor (3). Penalty goal: Challinor.
NEWCASTLE: P Belgian; M Wilson, J Fletcher, R Cramb, I McLennan; R Andrew, G Robson; N Popplewell, N Frankland, P Vanzandvliet, P Walton, E Mitchell, R Metcalfe, S Cassidy, R Arnold.
HARLEQUINS: J Staples; D O'Leary, W Greenwood, P Mensah, S Bromley; P Challinor, R Kitchin; J Leonard, S Mitchell, A Mullins, G Allison, M Russell, M Watson, R Jenkins, C Sheasby.
Referee: E Morrison (Bristol).


DAVID ROBERTS/ALLSPORT

Andrew, left, grapples with Greenwood, the Harlequins centre, in the Pilkington Cup match at Newcastle

Lucky Bath are victors but heroic Scully takes the honours

Wakefield 12
Bath 16

By Christopher Irvine

BATH were not beaten, but they were humbled by a Wakefield side whose collective spirit comes without a price-tag. Jon Sleightholme returned to his roots at College Grove, the conquering hero but, like his nine fellow internationals, left a pale shadow.

Relief for the holders, in a torrid Pilkington Cup fifth-round encounter, came 45 seconds from the end of normal time, and was scarcely deserved. Garnett, the Wakefield hooker, had been immaculate up to the point. He dithered in throwing to a lineout on his 22-metre line. Bath went for route one from the free kick, Sanders got quick ruck ball and, down the blind side, Butland touched down for the winning try.

Until their escape, Bath had been imprisoned by woeful incompetence and Wakefield's wonderful belligerence. When the pre-match tugging of forelocks at Bath's presence ended, the second division side poked a finger in the eye of the aristocrats, whose warning by Sleightholme about the cussedness of his former teammates went unheeded.

Brian Ashton, the Bath coach, aspires to the aesthetic: what he got was the antithesis of his ambitions. For all Bath's possession, to be rattled as easily as they were reflected dreadfully on those supposed to know and play better. Clarke and Robinson expended greater energies in cross-examination of the referee, who rightly penalised Bath's crass indiscipline. When his side was not killing the ball and straying offside, de Glanville, bizarrely, was kicking straight to the Wakefield backs. Guscott's incisiveness, in easily scoring after 20 minutes, had shown the way, but Bath badly lost the plot.

Trips by Bath to the North in the Cup tend to bring on nosebleeds. They lost at Waterloo three seasons ago and survived another narrow shave last season at Orrell, so a quarter-final at Bristol on Saturday week is almost looked on favourably.

David Scully, like many players in the North, gets a raw deal when it comes to England selection. Rather than moving to further himself, the scrum half, unlike others who have been snapped up from Wakefield by bigger clubs, feels a sense of loyalty. Scully might not be at a fashionable club, but, as he demonstrated on Saturday, his game is in vogue.

Scully was everywhere, including the right touchline to cut down the flying Adebayo in some heroic defence by Wakefield. His promptings around the ruck and scrum-base, coupled with the smothering back row presence of Green, Griffiths and Rushworth at close quarters, demoralised Bath, while Jackson's fourth penalty goal edged the home side in front with 15 minutes left.

Garnett's lack of a lineout throw, however, threw away a famous victory. It was wretched misfortune for Wakefield, and the stroke of luck that saved Bath.

SCORERS: Wakefield: Penalty goals: Jackson (4). Bath: Tries: Guscott, Butland. Penalty goals: Callard (2).
WAKEFIELD: M Jackson; P White, P Maynard, A Metcalfe, R Thompson; R Pryal, D Scully; G Baldwin, T Garnett, R Latham, C Rushworth, S Croft; P Stewart, J Griffiths, N Green.
BATH: J Callard; J Sleightholme, J Guscott, P de Glanville, A Adebayo, R Butland, I Sanders; D Hilton, G Dawe, J Mallett, A Robinson, M Haag, N Redman, E Peters, B Clarke.
Referee: A Rowden (Berkshire).

Irish forced to forsake style and grind out victory in dour clash

Leeds 13
London Irish 29

By John Hopkins

MUCH has been made of Clive Woodward's coaching at lower levels, in Australia and now with London Irish. The former Leicester, England and British Isles threequarter has turned London Irish from a ragged bunch barely capable of remaining in the second division of the Courage Clubs Championship into a team yearning for promotion. Woodward has done this with such *élan* that he has been approached about coaching the England Under-21 threequarters.

What a surprise it was, then, to watch the first half hour of this fifth-round Pilkington Cup match. It was the worst half hour of rugby that I have seen for years, being bad-tempered, boring and filled with errors. Two players received yellow cards within three minutes. At the risk of making a cheap joke, it is not inaccurate to say there was more action going on after the referee had blown his whistle, which was the signal for the pitch to be invaded by trainers, baggage men, physiotherapists and replacement players, than before.

It was always going to be difficult for London Irish against a team from two divisions below them. The slanting, intermittent rain and a gluey surface mitigated against an open, handling game that would have favoured Irish. Furthermore, Leeds had two big lineout forwards in Richard McCartney and Christian Raducanu, who were awkward and made their presence felt. Phil Griffin, the Leeds captain, was a fiery back-row forward anxious to play one of the games of his life on a day when the emphasis was on forward and not back play.

Leeds have a decent set of forwards and, when Phil Davies arrives from Llanelli to become director of rugby and presumably bolsters the pack even more, then the big ambitions of this small club will have moved nearer reality.

As it was, they recovered from being ten points down to level the score at 13-13 with 13 minutes remaining. Who can say, on such a day and such a pitch, that they could not have taken the lead had McCartney not been sent off for kicking at a ruck. Shorn of a ball-winner at the lineout and a force in the scrum, Leeds conceded two tries in the last 13 minutes, as well as two penalty goals.

Woodward watched the match from a shelter on the touchline, sometimes sitting down, at others standing and restlessly shifting from foot to foot. Nothing resembling a smile was to be seen on his face until the last few minutes when, as Michael Corcoran attempted to convert Rob Henderson's try, Woodward indicated that there was five minutes to go.

At last, all was well for London Irish, but, not for the first time, a lesser club had gone very close to providing an upset in the Cup.

SCORERS: Leeds: Try: Harley. Conversion: Stephens. Penalty goals: Stephens (2). London Irish: Tries: Ewington, Henderson, Flood. Conversion: Corcoran. Penalty goals: Corcoran (4).
LEEDS: S Langley; J Eagle, G Cassidy, W Harley, C Thornton; C Stephens, R Morgan, M Winscombe, S Gobbs; A Machell, L Denham, R McCartney, C Raducanu, P Griffin, P Curtis.
LONDON IRISH: C O'Shea; M Corcoran, R Henderson, P Flood, J Bishop; O Cobbe, T Ewington; J Fitzpatrick, R Kellam, G Halpin, P Irons, C Hall, D Peters, A Diprose, B Walsh.
Referee: N Courtney (London).


Corcoran: four penalty goals

Hill finds the formula to help Gloucester pass fitness test

Nottingham 10
Gloucester 36

By Nicolas Andrews

THE topical talk in football circles at the moment may concern the desirability of a mid-season break, but many Courage Clubs Championship players have just had one forced upon them. A combination of the weather and the five nations' championship has left those not playing at the highest level short of competitive fixtures. Gloucester beat Bristol in a training match four weeks ago, but this Pilkington Cup fifth-round tie was their first outing in earnest since they beat West Hartlepool on January 6.

Richard Hill, the director of coaching at Kingsholm, has nevertheless been working hard on his players' fitness levels, and it was this and the power of the visiting pack that ultimately enabled Gloucester to beat Nottingham by the comfortable margin of five tries to one. "We have got a lot stronger in the last 20 minutes," Hill said on Saturday. Twenty-eight second-half points scored without reply suggests that he could be right.

Gloucester chose to play into a strong wind in the first half and turned round 10-8 behind. Steve Reed, a former Leicester and Scotland Under-21 wing, had scored the try of the match for Nottingham with a swerving run from halfway moments earlier; but it was never likely to be enough.

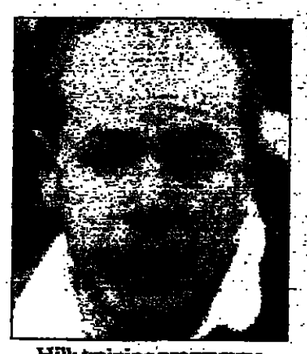
Chris Raymond, the Gloucester No 8, claimed a try in each half, the second of which owed much to Mike Lloyd's speed off the blind-side wing from a scrum. Indeed, Raymond might have had a third had not Douglas Chapman, the referee, capped an eccentric afternoon with the whistle by awarding a penalty try against the Nottingham pack instead. Lloyd scored a try of his own in the 77th minute.

Perhaps it was rustiness, perhaps it was the knowledge that defeat for either team would sit alongside a bleak season in the league, but this match got off to a sluggish start and rarely left second gear. Gloucester at least have the prospect of a home quarter-final tie with Wasps to divert them from their attempts to avoid relegation.

"It's a big carrot for us," Hill said. "It will be an exciting game." He has a fitness adviser and a psychologist helping him to get things right off the field at Gloucester. Whether it is enough to keep them in the first division remains to be seen.

Nottingham have the no-relegation ruling to thank for ensuring that they will play second-division rugby in the next campaign. Roger Whittaker, the director of rugby, can only hope for a brighter future. That will not happen without an injection of youthful talent and that means money and greater support. "We have got to appeal continually to the city of Nottingham," Whittaker said. "If they want an elite side, they are going to have to support us." A move into the city from their suburban home might help.

SCORERS: Nottingham: Try: Reed. Conversion: Hodgkinson. Penalty goal: Hodgkinson. Gloucester: Tries: Raymond (2), Osborne, Lloyd, penalty try. Conversions: Osborne (4). Penalty goal: Kimber.
NOTTINGHAM: M Gallagher; S Reed, G Hartley, R Bygrave, A Smallwood; S Hodgkinson, A Royer; M Fraer, M Ireland, A Jackson, B Donald; C Gray, L Jones, G Rees, M Bradley.
GLOUCESTER: T Beim; P Holford, D Cassie, M Roberts, M Lloyd; M Kimber, S Benton; A Windo, P Greening, A Deacon, P Ollerenshaw; R Pedler, D Sims, A Stanley, C Raymond. Beim replaced by L Osborne (40min).
Referee: D Chapman (Yorkshire).


Hill: training programme

Bristol foil brave defence

Bedford 0
Bristol 37

By Bryan Stiles

WHEN Bedford slumped to 27-0 by the interval, the calculators were out. Would they succumb by more than the 61 points that they surrendered to Bristol in January 1983?

They looked positively shell-shocked as they huddled for the half-time team talk from Fran Clough, their captain and former England centre. They had packed their back line with hard-tackling defensive players, who had performed bravely, but had been unable to stop Bristol from running in three tries, while they were prevented from straying outside their own half most of the time.

Clough must have reminded them of the only three things that they had going for them: they were about to play downhill; they had the wind in their favour and they had proved that they could stifle at least some of Bristol's attacks with their fearsome tackling.

It worked. At least, it did for the first 15 minutes. Then, the greater weight and skill of the Bristol pack took its inevitable toll and the West Countrymen steamrollered their way into the quarter-finals of the Pilkington Cup and a meeting at home with their neighbours, Bath, the holders.

Before the kick-off, the signs were that there was unlikely to be a Cup upset, judging by the way that Bedford had been playing in the second division of the Courage Clubs championship. Bristol languish in a similar lowly position in the first division, but, as one seasoned Bedford official put it: "Now, our supporters have witnessed the huge difference in class that lies between teams in the first and second divisions."

Arwel Thomas, the precocious Bristol stand-off half, missed this game because he was summoned to Wales to prepare for the match against Scotland on Saturday. Bracken — who scored two tries — and Hull showed that they are ready to step back into the England team if needed, and Regan regularly found his jumpers in the lineout — and scored a try.

Archer was a target-man for Regan at the throw-in and their partnership proved lucrative, with the lock feeding Bracken well, finding the gaps to score a try and shining in the loose alongside Adams and Corry.

SCORERS: Bristol: Tries: Bracken (2), Archer, Regan, Breeze. Conversions: Tainton (3). Penalty goals: Tainton (2).
BEDFORD: M Cook; G Wheat, B Whetstone, M Oliver, P Allen; F Clough, R Stone, L Mansell, M Roach, C Roberts, M Deans, M Uper, K Sampson, A Mortimore, M Wright. Whetstone replaced by A Goldsmith (29min); Goldsmith temporary replacement for M Cook (9-12).
BRISTOL: P Hull, M Denney, K Maggs, S Martin, J Keyser, M Tainton, K Bracken, A Sharp, M Regan, D Hinkins, M Corry, G Archer, P Adams, I Dixon, E Rolls. Denney replaced by B Breeze (52). Corry replaced by R Armstrong (54).
Referee: A Spreadbury (Somerset).

Senior league clubs seek greater control

THE fragmentation of English club rugby will continue this week when a company representing the interests of first and second division clubs will be formed (David Hands writes). Though the clubs insist that they wish to work alongside the Rugby Football Union (RFU), they want to control their own financial destiny and the conflict of interests may prove irreconcilable.

The ten first division clubs have already withdrawn from the National Clubs Association (NCA), which has established representation within the last three years on nearly every significant RFU committee. The second division clubs seem certain to follow suit and each of the lower national divisions are worried that they will be left behind.

The first division clubs want to negotiate on their own behalf the commercial arrangements relating to the new European tournament and the proposed Anglo-Welsh tournament, and seek a redistribution of money from existing domestic tournaments.

Meanwhile, Ireland, who play France in Paris on Saturday, will give an international debut to David Humphreys, the Oxford University and London Irish stand-off half. He is the only newcomer in a XV showing five changes from the side beaten by Scotland.

IRELAND: J E Staples (Harlequins, captain); S P Geoghegan (Bath), J C Bell (Northampton), K P McDuffie (Becton Rangers), N K P J Woods (Blackrock College); D G Humphreys (London Irish), N A Hogan (Terenure College); N J Popplewell (Newcastle); T J Kingston (Dolphin), P M Clohessy (Young Munster), J W Davidson (Dungannon); G M Fulcher (Cork Constitution), P S Johns (Dungannon), D S Corkery (Cork Constitution), V C P Costello (St Mary's College).

Pontypridd bank on bonus

Aberavon 3
Pontypridd 19

By Gerald Davies

THE rush is on for the bonus points for tries. With the leading five clubs in Wales experiencing a backlog of fixtures ranging from six to eight matches, the need to capitalise on scoring opportunities is paramount, as Pontypridd proved on Saturday. Victory, in their eyes, was a formality. It was the number of tries that mattered.

Pontypridd ignored the goal-kicking expertise of Neil Jenkins throughout the game. This was his first match since his collar-bone injury before Christmas and it seemed odd not to see him in his customary role aiming for the posts. Elsewhere, though, he was influential in his line kicking and tackling.

Penalty goals may win matches, but it is a club's number of tries that could well win the league. Pontypridd were awarded 15 penalties in all, about half of which were well within Jenkins's range. Generally, however, Phil John, the hooker, tapped the ball to himself and expected his team-mates to follow in his wake.

Even when the home team had gone ahead from a penalty goal by Stork, this was the route that Pontypridd chose to follow. Such pile-driving tactics were not a pretty sight.

These moves succeeded twice, giving Pontypridd the kind of lead that Aberavon were unlikely to overtake. A series of these short penalties resulted in Paul John crossing the line by way of a crawl in the 29th minute. Something similar occurred for the second try, seven minutes into the second half, when space was finally created for Manley to score.

Aberavon provided stiff resistance largely because of the ball-winning capacity of Clapham and Matthews in the lineout, but lacked the pace to make any substantial impression.

Aberavon were making encouraging inroads into the Pontypridd defence when, as had happened so often previously, the ball went astray. Geraint Lewis latched on to it and sprinted 50 metres for the try.

So, Pontypridd, in gaining the extra bonus point, move level at the top with Llanelli, who remain in the lead by virtue of their greater number of tries.

SCORERS: Aberavon: Penalty goal: Stork. Pontypridd: Tries: Paul John, Manley, G Lewis. Conversions: N Jenkins (2).
ABERAVON: N Stork; R Daplock, J Jardine, C Lally, S Hutchinson, M Watts, G Baber, D Austin, M Bennett, R Jasper, B Emerson, P Clapham, P Matthews, R Morris, G Evans. Hutchinson replaced by K Malby (70min). Watts replaced by G Thomas (71). Jasper replaced by H Merrett (54).
PONTYPRIDD: R Comacle; D Manley, J Lewis, S Lewis, G Davis; N Jenkins, Paul John; N Bezant, Phil John, A Metcalfe, M Lloyd, P Owen, G Prosser, M Williams, D McIntosh, Manley replaced by S Enoch (59).
Referee: G Simmonds (Taff's Well).

Kravets falls short while Kravitz is set for high jumping comeback

Hansen leaps among world's elite

By David Powell, Athletics Correspondent

EVEN without Jonathan Edwards, Great Britain have started this Olympic year one jump ahead of the rest of the world. Ashia Hansen's British and Commonweath women's triple jump record in the Ricoh Tour at Birmingham on Saturday was all the more meaningful for the scalps it gave her. Hansen's mark was the best in the world this year, as was Steve Smith's in the high jump.

It was a day when the names of Kravets and Kravitz came up. Hansen beat Inessa Kravets, the outdoor world champion and world record-holder, as well as Iva Prandzheva, the world championship runner-up. Smith was wondering whether he should go back to Lenny Kravitz.

Two years ago, Smith set a British and Commonwealth indoor record of 2.38 metres in a high jump to music competition in Wuppertal, Germany. Ten days ago, he returned to Wuppertal and managed only 2.20 metres. "One of the most embarrassing performances," Smith said. "I tried Frankie

Birmingham results 30

Goes to Hollywood at Wuppertal and it didn't work, so I may go back to Lenny Kraviz."

Even without music, which helps the jumpers into their rhythm, Smith cleared 2.36 metres in Birmingham. Not only was Smith without music, but also opposition, too. Steinar Hoen, the European champion, from Norway, abandoned the competition at 2.34 metres, with just the two of them left in, because he had a flight to catch to his next meeting. Who cares about the paying public?

Hoen was off to Balingen, Germany, for a musical high jump yesterday and wanted to catch the evening flight. Smith followed yesterday morning. "I would never think of leaving a competition if I had just jumped 2.34," Smith said. "but he has not got a British crowd to think of like I have. That is where my priorities lie."

Something will have to be done about the jumping surface at the National Indoor Arena. Two British high jumpers, Brendan Reilly and Andrew Lynch, have ruptured Achilles tendons on it recently because, Smith suspects, the surface gives underfoot. It required taping during the competition. "I was very aware of it at the beginning, but it is no use worrying about it," Smith said.

Hansen added 29 centimetres to her British record with 14.58 metres. Prandzheva was second with 14.56 metres. Inna Lasovskaya, the European indoor champion, third with 14.52 metres and Kravets a disappointing fourth with 14.27 metres.

Coaches are hard people to satisfy. "She was not as quick on the runway as I have seen her the last two weeks," was the critical view of Frank Attoh, Hansen's coach. "There is at least 30 or 40 centimetres to come, hopefully indoors."

By tonight, Britain could have a new world record-holder. Tony Jarrett, after his sprint hurdles victory over Allen Johnson, the indoor and outdoor world champion, is in Tampere, Finland, seeking to break the rarely-run mark for the indoor 110 metres hurdles.

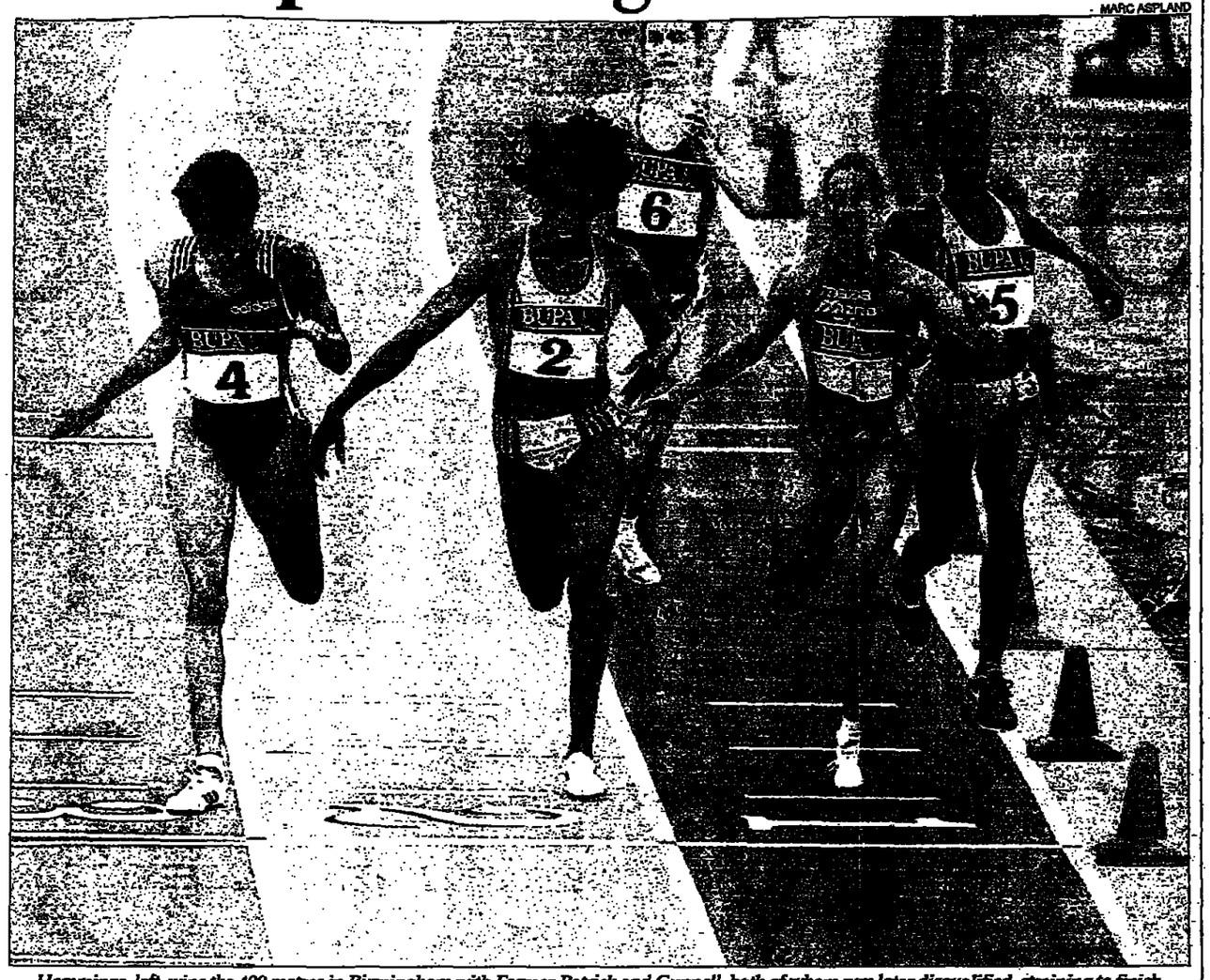
"Hopefully I can do it," Jarrett said. Nevertheless, he admitted: "It does not have have a great deal of significance." The record, held by Johnson, is 13.34sec.

British athletics is enjoying an encouraging start to the year. There were fresh indications in the week that Diane Modahl may have her name cleared of drugs allegations by the International Amateur Athletic Federation; television figures show that the Great Britain versus Russia indoor international attracted four million Saturday afternoon viewers, within a million of the number who watched the rugby union international between England and France; two seven-figure sponsorships have been announced; British athletes are performing well; and Sally Gunnell is back.

Gunnell's disqualification from the 400 metres for breaking lane early in her first international race after prolonged injury hardly mattered. What was important was that she gave a close race to Sandra Farmer-Patrick and Deon Hemmings, two challengers for her Olympic 400 metres hurdles crown.

"The important thing was to give it a real go and be competitive," Gunnell, who reported no problem with the heel injury that ruled her out last year, said. She did exactly that.

MARC ASPLAND



Hemmings, left, wins the 400 metres in Birmingham with Farmer-Patrick and Gunnell, both of whom wre later disqualified, straining to finish

Olympic threat to Nigeria

By David Powell

THERE was anger in the running of Davidson Ezinwa and Christy Opara, respective winners of the men's and women's 60 metres at the Ricoh Tour meeting in Birmingham on Saturday. Ezinwa and Opara are Nigerians who *should* be finalists in the 100 metres at the Olympics Games in Atlanta this summer. Should be, but will they be allowed to compete?

Both were disturbed by reports from the United States in the week that suggested that moves were afoot on Capitol Hill to have Nigeria's athletes barred from Atlanta. Sanctions against Nigeria's military government were being examined by the State Department after the hanging of Ken Saro-Wiwa, the dissident. Embargoes on arms and oil, and a hard line on sport, were under consideration.

Ezinwa and Opara urged the politicians not to use sport to exert pressure on their Government to end human rights abuses. "I they cannot sanction Nigeria in an economic way, why sanction them in sport?" Opara, the 1994 Commonwealth Games 100 metres runner-up, said.

"It is not sport that is causing what is going on in Nigeria now, it is oil, but they are talking about banning athletes," Ezinwa said. "If they stop Nigeria coming to the Olympics, it is not the Government they are hurting, it's the athletes."

Ezinwa has had more than his share of setbacks caused by the politics of his sport. Though an Olympic finalist in 1992, he was left out of the Nigeria team for the 1993 world championships in Stuttgart because he did not appear at the national trials. The runner-up to Linford Christie in the 1990 Commonwealth Games, he was omitted for the next Games, in 1994 — again for failing to run the trials.

In 1995, he missed the world championships in Gothenburg through injury. Having won the first two races on the Ricoh Tour, he feels that he has built a platform for Atlanta. Now, the politicians are causing him more worryies than are Christie and Donovan Bailey.

Higenbotham in fine form as Manchester net two titles

By David Powell

ROCHESTER is not just Rochester, but, as the tourist signs tell visitors, Historic Rochester. There is the 11th century Rochester Castle, a cathedral that is the second oldest in England, a Dickensian connection, and, if you visit in November, Great Britain's oldest annual five-mile road race. Yesterday, history was in the making again.

The biggest weekend of the year for young netball players comes with certain guarantees. Competition will be keen, the noise will be deafening, and Greater Manchester will win something. What has never happened in the annual inter-counties schools championships is for Sussex to reach a final.

Their previous best was ninth, but, at the Stirling Sports Centre, they reached the final of the under-16 tournament. They lost to mighty Manchester, but gave them a game, 10-8 the score. Manchester did the double, beating Birmingham 14-12 in the under-18 final.

This is serious success in domestic netball. Such is the importance of the tournament that the counties, even those from nearby, book into hotels. The cost of the weekend to each county is at least £2,000. "Our attitude is very professional," Rachel Folley, the England Under-16 coach, said. "We are hampered by the image of it being a schoolgirl game."

Folley attributes Manchester's success to enthusiastic officials, a sound club and school structure, role models and luck. Luck because, compared with counties the size of Sussex, Manchester is a small area with a high concentration of people.

"Accessibility is so much greater," Folley said. Sussex sprawls by comparison. Players have to commit to travel and, according to Sandra Scragg, the Sussex coach, there is a greater disparity of styles when players come from a wide area.

Manchester's role models inspire newcomers. According to Folley: "When you have one England player, the kudos develops and expectation becomes higher." Manchester had nine on show at the weekend. The next best counties had England players in ones and twos.

The present success started with Tracey Neville, an England Under-21 goal attack. It makes a change to have one attacker in the Neville family; Gary and Phillip, her footballing brothers, defend for Manchester United.

In common with many sports, netball has suffered through changes in the national curriculum: "The amount played in schools, and the quality, was affected," Folley said; but she sees signs of a recovery.

"The prospects for the future of the England team look encouraging," she said. They have a hard act to follow: England were fourth in the world championships in Birmingham last year.

However, rising players will be expected to learn a standard England style. Australia and New Zealand, first and third at the world championship, have been studied and copied. "We have looked at their styles, which are very different, and taken the best things that are worth us developing into our style," Folley said.

"It is beginning to filter down to these people here. This is something the All England Netball Association has taken on since the world championship." Come the next world tournament, in New Zealand in 1999, Rochester may seem far behind for some of the winners yesterday.

"There are certainly some youngsters here who could be playing for that squad," Folley said. One who impressed her was Liz Higenbotham, the Manchester Under-16 centre. She has "lovely wrists," apparently.

Fading wrists can fool the opposition, and Sussex were fooled.

SPORT IN SCHOOLS

Photograph 30
Schools results 30

Only hot dogs and Tigers fail to satisfy

Stuart Jones squeezes into Crystal Palace

for an evening of non-stop hockey action

Finals night of the indoor hockey club championship at the Crystal Palace sports centre was packed, and on a foul February night, as well. The place was also very noisy, principally because of the vociferous contingent supporting East Grinstead.

A thousand seats, arrayed along one side, were full. So were the hospitality boxes, stretched along one end. Spectators, with no choice but to stand behind a railing, lined the other side and end.

There was no less space in between the eight matches, one of which was an exhibition featuring school sides. Play was continuous, apart from intervals of three minutes and gaps of five minutes, for more than seven hours. At £7.50, the entrance fee represented good value for money.

The refreshments did not. A hamburger stall, tucked away in the nether regions of the complex, offered the only hot food available. Timing was everything as no more than one person was on duty and she was distinctly harassed.

Similar exasperation was evident back in the arena. Uncommonly, the players shook hands with their opponents before as well as after they tussled with them, but such amiable propriety was not shown to the officials, particularly by the aptly named Barford Tigers.

The runners-up last year, they had won all five of their matches in the preliminary round, held over two days in the middle of January. They opened in the tournament, though, by being beaten by Hull and they lost their composure as well.

Miscreants were not shown a yellow card but an incongrously inconspicuous green triangle. The Barford Tigers earned several of them, all for dissent. Their followers also angrily accused those in charge of, among other crimes, "knowing nothing about the game because they had never played it".

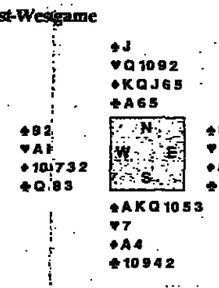
Amid the increasingly petulant verbal protestations on and off the converted basketball court, though, could be seen the outstanding individual of the event. Amarjit Deegun caught the eye for his sleight of stick.

Even with his dazzling wizardry, the Tigers fared no better in their other pool match. They went down to Old Loughtonians, as they had by a similarly narrow margin in the final a year ago.

Sheehan on Bridge

By Robert Sheehan, Bridge Correspondent

East-West game — Dealer North



The good Six Spades was missed at all the tables in the first round of the 1995 Premier League matches. What usually happened was that South responded One Spade to North's One Diamond, and thereafter couldnot catch up. This is a possibl Acol auction:

N	S
1 D	1S
3 D	3S
4 C (1)	4D (1)
5 S (2)	6S (3)
Pass	

1, A cue-bid confirming spades; 2, Have you got a heart control?; 3, Yes.

It is much beter to make a first-round jump shift on the South hand. ly responding Two Spades, you establish a game-force early on and you can then repeat your suit on the next round to show the quality of the sades.

The key to the successful Acol auction above is North's appreciation othe value of the jack of spades. This represents good support for a suit that South has rebid after a jump shift. South's Four Diamond cue-bid, showing the ace, is also good news for North, because he can now see lots of tricks. North makes a bid, Five Hearts, that forces South to go to slam with a control in the unbid suit.

The slam is made easily after the king of hearts lead and a club switch. South takes the ace of clubs, cashes the jack of spades and ruffs a heart to get back to hand to draw trumps. The fall of the ace of hearts gives South an easy 12 tricks without having to worry about the 5-1 diamond break. South's declarer play would be tested more on an unlikely club lead, though he will still be able to succeed by squeezing West in the red suits.

☐ Robert Sheehan writes on bridge Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

Keene on Chess

By Raymond Keene, Chess Correspondent

Computer's sensational win

Garry Kasparov, the world champion, has suffered a sensational reverse in the first game of his six-game match against IBM's Deep Blue computer. This is the first time that a world champion has lost to a computer at the normal tournament time rate of 40 moves in two hours.

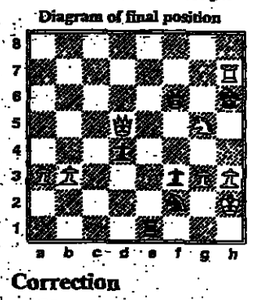
IBM's Deep Blue sees 512 million different positions every second. The question must be whether such immense calculating power can translate into the strategic and tactical creativity required for victory on the chessboard.

From the start of the first game, Kasparov seemed ill at ease. His second move blew the position wide open, when conventional wisdom dictates that a closed strategy is the prudent course against computers. Kasparov's tenth move ... Bb4 looked artificial, and, after this bishop was driven out of play on the queen's flank, the computer systematically set about inflicting weaknesses on Kasparov's pawns.

White: Deep Blue
Black: Garry Kasparov
Philadelphia, January 1996
Sicilian Defence

1	e4	c5
2	c3	d5
3	exd5	Qxd5
4	d4	Nf6
5	Nf3	Bg4
6	Be2	e6
7	h3	Bh5
8	0-0	Nc6
9	Be3	cxd4
10	Cxd4	Bb4
11	e5	Ba5
12	Nc3	Qd6
13	Nb5	Qe7
14	Ne5	Bxe2
15	Qxe2	0-0
16	Rac1	Rac8
17	Bg5	Bb6
18	Bxf6	gxf6
19	Nc4	Rfd8
20	Nxb6	axb6
21	Rfd1	f5
22	Qe3	Qf6
23	d5	Rxd5
24	Rxd5	exd5
25	b3	Kh8
26	Qxb6	Rg8
27	Qc5	d4
28	Nd6	f4
29	Nxb7	Ne5
30	Qd5	f3
31	g3	Nd3
32	Rc7	Re8
33	Nd6	Re1+
34	Kh2	Nxf2
35	Nd7+	Kg7
36	Ng5+	Kh6
37	Rxh7+	Black resigns

Diagram of final position

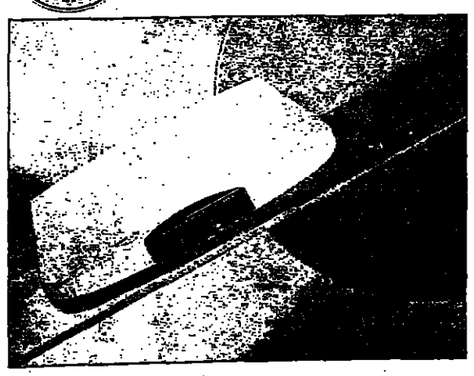


Correction

Last Thursday, there was an error in the diagram position. The position occurred after Black's 33rd move in the game Xie Jun — Polgar. The black bishop which appeared on the d8-square should have been on e8.

☐ Raymond Keene writes on chess Monday to Friday in Sport and in the Weekend section on Saturday.

YOUR CHANCE TO FOLLOW THE CRICKET WORLD CUP ACTION AS IT HAPPENS



Five Pace satellite systems to be won

Worried about missing out on the biggest ever Cricket World Cup beginning this week exclusively on Sky Sports?

The Times is offering readers the chance to keep up with the action as it happens by entering our competition. We have five state-of-the-art Pace MS 100 satellite systems to give away so you can follow the progress of Mike Atherton and his men on the sub-continent as they aim to go one better than 1992 and win their first ever world cup.

Sky Sports will be showing exclusive live coverage of 29 games over the coming month and will endeavour to install your system as soon as possible.

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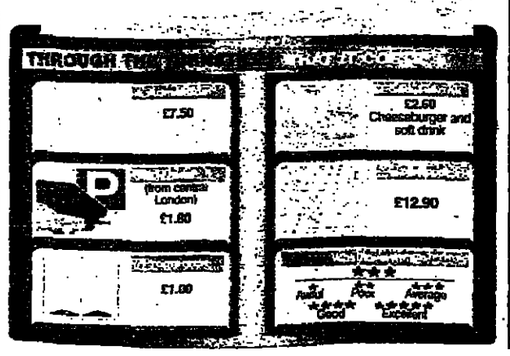
For your chance to win one of these systems answer the following question and phone your answer to our competition hotline, below.

1) *Who captained England to the final in 1992?*

The first five names selected at random from all correct entries received by midnight tonight will win. *Times* Newspapers competition rules apply.

CALL OUR HOTLINE 0839 444 505

Calls are charged at 39p per minute cheap rate, 49p per minute at all other times



Word-watching

By Philip Howard

MITHRIDATSE
a. To flaunt extravagance
b. To hamstring
c. To immunie

SUCCUSSIOI
a. Shaking
b. An afterthought
c. Cactus-grafing

AUTOCHTHON
a. Self-reproducing
b. A sports car
c. Aboriginal

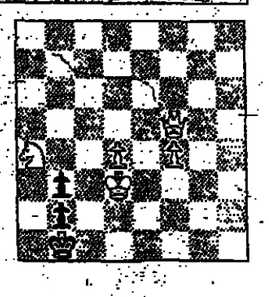
FACINOROUS
a. Good at filing
b. Eloquent
c. Exceedingly wicked

Answers on page 40

Winning move

By Raymond Keene

White to play and mate in two moves. This position is a problem composed by Lilian Baird, the amazing nine-year-old Brighton-based chess prodigy, in 1890. White obviously has an overwhelming material superiority in this position, but the problem is how to force checkmate in two moves against any black defence.



Solution on page 40

هكذا في الإعلان

300 MINUTES FOR ALL BT SJBSCRIBERS WHO READ *THE TIMES* AND *THE SUNDAY TIMES*

5 hours of FREE phone calls with BT

THE TIMES
FREE BT CALLS
THE SUNDAY TIMES



The Times has teamed up with *The Sunday Times* and BT to give every reader the chance to benefit from five hours of free phone calls.

Starting today, and continuing for the next four weeks, tokens that are each worth ten minutes of free calls will appear every day in *The Times*. And every Sunday for the next three weeks tokens for free BT calls — each worth 40 minutes — will appear in *The Sunday Times*.

To get five hours of free calls from BT all you have to do is collect 21 tokens over the next four weeks from *The Times* and *The Sunday Times*. Each day as you collect the tokens you will be adding to the amount of minutes of free calls you can get from BT and, by collecting 21 tokens, you will receive 300 minutes (five hours) of free calls. The calls will be credited to your BT bill at the company's local weekend rate.

To qualify for the offer you must collect 18 different tokens from *The Times* and three different tokens from *The Sunday Times* from the 28 which will be published until Saturday, March 9, 1996.

Start collecting tokens today

The first of 18 *Times* tokens you need to collect to get your five hours of free calls appears below, right. Cut it out and keep it safe. When you have 18 different tokens from *The Times*, and three different *Sunday Times* tokens, send them off with the application form below, right. Applications must arrive by Saturday, March 30, 1996. Readers are not permitted to claim less than, or more than, 300 minutes (five hours) of free calls.

1. A total of 21 different tokens must be collected to qualify for this offer, of which three must be from *The Sunday Times* and 18 from *The Times*. This will entitle you to 300 minutes (five hours) of free BT phone calls which will be credited to your BT phone bill. 2. Credits will be applied at the standard BT local weekend rate at the time of the application. 3. All 21 tokens, adding up to 300 minutes (five hours), must be sent with the official application form and received on or before Saturday, March 30, 1996. Only original tokens can be accepted. 4. Part redemption of tokens (less than 300 minutes) is not permitted. Nor are claims for more than 300 minutes. 5.Tokens cannot be exchanged for cash or used in conjunction with any other offer. The cash value of tokens is 0.001p. 6. Readers must submit a valid BT residential phone number with the full STD code. 7. The offer is limited to one application per BT residential phone number. 8. Although reasonable effort will be made to apply the credit to your next available phone bill, credits may be applied to a subsequent bill. 9. Applications must be sent to: *Times* Newspapers/BT Free Calls Offer, Newcastle upon Tyne X, NE85 7DZ. 10. Applications sent to any other address or submitted with a phone bill or at a BT shop will not be accepted.11. If you have any queries about this promotion, please call: 0171-867 0406 between 9.30am and 5pm Monday to Friday. 12. If you wish to check your application has been successfully received, please call our helpline on: 0191-416 6533.

FREE BT CALLS APPLICATION FORM

Send this form with three different tokens from *The Sunday Times* and 18 different tokens from *The Times* to: *Times* Newspapers/BT Free Calls Offer, Newcastle upon Tyne X, NE85 7DZ, to arrive by Saturday March 30, 1996.

Title ..... First name ..... Surname .....

Address .....

.....

Postcode ..... Home phone (with STD code) ☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐☐

It would help us if you answered these four questions:

1. Which of the following age groups do you fall into? (Please tick box) [1] 15-24 [2] 25-34 [3] 35-44 [4] 45-54 [5] 55-64 [6] 65+
2. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (4-6 copies) during the week? .....
3. Which national daily newspaper(s) do you buy occasionally (3 copies or less) during the week? .....
4. Which national Sunday newspaper(s) do you buy regularly (2-4 copies a month)? .....

THE TIMES
BT
10 MINUTES WORTH OF FREE CALLS
TOKEN 1

هكذا من الأصل

Capitalisation, week's change

TRADING PERIOD: Settlement takes place five business days after the day of trade. Changes are calculated on the previous day's close, but adjustments are made when a stock is ex-dividend. Changes, yields and price/earnings ratios are based on middle prices.

ALCOHOLIC BEVERAGES

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5,295.40	Allied Domecq	515	+ 3	3.7	13.7
292.50	Bulmer (HP)	854	+ 5	2.9	20.8
70.20	Glen Silkie	115	+ 2	2.6	17.4
3,220.00	Grand Met	441	+ 6	4.2	15.8
9,269.00	Guinness	457	+ 4	3.9	14.2
447.00	Highland Dist	256	+ 6	2.8	15.2
187.30	Macallan-Glen	198	+ 6	2.8	13.5
82.40	Macph. Mon 'A'	636	+ 8	3.1	18.0
1,666.30	Matthew (Sam)	667	+ 11	4.1	
11.70	Mitchells & B	1027½	+ 2½	2.1	
7,344.90	SA Breweries	2493½	+ 23	1.4	33.2

BANKS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
8,378.40	ABN-AMRO	2782½	- 129½	4.6	10.4
7,727.80	Abbey Nat	985	- 24	4.1	11.7
2,413.00	Allied Irish	992	- 2	4.6	10.5
4,489.00	Bco. Nac. Z	2360	- 30	5.0	
16,254.50	Bank America	4545½	+ 259½		
3,418.90	Bank Scotland	589	- 4	2.7	12.8
12,667.20	Barclays	781	- 14	3.6	10.6
2,166.00	Bk of Ireland	780	- 18	3.6	11.0
156.50	Cater Allen	680		7.8	7.9
16,099.60	Citicorp	4906½	+ 37½		
455.50	Clydesdale	1010		3.0	15.8
5,421.70	Commercial	2151½	- 229½		
35,222.50	Tst Bnk Kbn Y	1299½	+ 12½	0.4	
15,491.50	Deutsche Bk	3296½	- 39½	2.2	
160.50	Espirito Sndo	750	- 9½	4.8	10.0
11,904.10	Fst Bank Y	1449½	+ 10½	0.4	
227.60	Grand Met	454	+ 5½	0.7	19.5
553.40	Hambros	2091	- 1	4.7	
9,313.80	HSBC	1085	- 41	3.3	14.1
8,652.80	HSBC Hk	1061	- 39½	3.3	12.9
344.40	Ion Prem	413	- 7	2.9	9.5
24.00	Joseph (L)	468		8.5	15.6
42.30	Kirw Shanzon	164	+ 1½	6.9	12.7
6,256.20	Lloyds TSB	992	- 21		
8,963.80	Mid Natl Bk	882	- 13		
1,546.60	Nat West	882	- 15	4.4	10.1
9,313.80	Nat Bnkmn	1085	- 41	3.3	14.1
4,411.70	Rgl Bk Scotl	546	+ 3	2.1	12.8
1,854.30	Schroders	1288	- 42	1.4	17.5
403.40	Schroders N/V	1068	- 39	1.8	14.0
2,262.50	Singer & Fried	992		4.4	18.9
5,742.40	Standard Chart	1092	- 67½	1.8	14.9
25.90	Ulster	181	+ 1	4.1	
1,696.00	Wells Fargo	2169½	+ 131½	1.8	
1,553.10	Westpac	1065	- 12½	4.5	
28.20	Wintrust	305		4.9	17.2

BREWERIES, PUBS & REST

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
5.04	Abrdn Stk Mkt	42			8.1
66.40	Arnott Hldgs	210	+ 5		9.6
513.40	Bass†	741	+ 3	3.8	17.1
564.90	Beckington	481		2.4	24.7
15.60	Bk for the Bd	66		3.7	17.3
36.20	Burtwood Brwr	174		3.9	16.8
181.70	City Centre Rest	36	- 1	2.7	16.2
526.50	Classic Grp	1455	+ 6	2.3	21.2
45.60	Eldridge P 'A'†	225	- 3	2.2	16.2
86.90	Fstr Sm A'D	436	- 13	2.5	17.7
694.80	Greenalls Grpt	577	- 19	3.1	15.7
283.30	Greene King	1020	+ 5	2.9	15.3
46.30	Grt Yarmouth Brg	261	+ 9	2.3	20.7
65.60	Hardy Hanson†	1038	+ 1	3.9	12.2
1.56	Hrmtge	155		4.5	18.9
55.80	Hsh J	3382		2.2	18.6
209.30	Marshfield	247	- 1	2.1	16.3
308.40	Morton Thmp	343	+ 9	2.1	18.2
171.60	Morland	627	- 1	2.3	17.6
33.80	Mtr Wade Tavn	134	+ 3	2.8	13.3
1.72	Paramount	6		4.8	8.6
100.40	Pelican Gp	135	- 3	1.5	22.9
146.20	PizzaExpress	1032		0.8	31.1
27.10	Rmadown (H)	308	- 4	2.1	
134.10	Regent Inns	168	+ 16	1.1	80.2
31.30	Scot & Newc†	556		3.6	17.7
100.00	Tom Cobleigh	251	- 5	1.4	40.0
762.30	Vaux Group	979	- 14	4.6	14.4
555.70	Wetherspoon JD	726	- 12	1.4	29.5
888.70	Whitbread	724	+ 8	3.6	17.9
1,169.40	Wolverhampton D	360	+ 21½	3.1	14.8
23.30	Yates Bristol	313		13	27.8
12.50	Young 'A'	431		4.4	17.5

BUILDING & CONSTRUCT

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
4.62	AAF Inds	20	- 1		
54.20	Abbeyf	143		4.7	9.1
74.20	Allen	225	+ 6	3.3	16.8
95.80	Amec	96½	- 2½	3.9	20.3
36.00	Ancheres Sales	240			
71.10	Ashtead	167	+ 2	1.8	15.2
13.90	Ascacde	32	+ 1	12.5	5.1
2.57	Bailey (Ben) Con	245½	+ ½	5.4	5.9
15.80	Bancroft	34	- 2	1.1	
44.90	Barratt Devs	247	+ 1	3.8	15.8
77.40	Bastor Homes	170	- 3	3.2	12.9
38.90	Bellway	262	- 8	3.7	12.6
8.12	Bellwinch	16		1.4	9.7
41.50	Berkeley Gp'V	519	- 7	1.9	18.0
13.70	Bett Bros	128	- 2	4.3	8.7
18.90	Bost (Henry)	191	+ 1	5.0	8.5
9.80	Brandon Hire	91		3.1	18.2
5.24	Britannia Grp	23		8.7	4.5
4.48	Br Bldg & Eng	40	- 3		
16.40	Bryant	166	+ 4	6.0	9.6
2.20	CALA	98	+ 2	4.1	9.5
2.02	Cornelia & Ann	14			11.1
5.41	Clarke T	44		11.5	15.6
6.60	Costain	71	- 1		
3.43	Countryside	78	- 1	5.4	
4.00	Crest Nicholson	65	+ 2½	3.9	
1.90	Crudley	7			8.8
1.90	Dc Group	208		5.1	11.8
1.31	Eaklland	15		8.3	30.5
2.20	Elsecom (Bill)	226		22.6	14.0
1.31	Green (Edgar)	56		11.4	24.4
2.40	Hardwick Conv	139	+ 15	3.4	23.5
1.70	Hawtin-Stuart	135	- 2	2.8	44.4
1.30	Higgs & Hill	65	+ 1	3.7	12.2
0.52	Howard Hidgs	47	+ ½	5.3	17.3
1.70	Jarvis	224½			
1.30	Laing	339	- 1	3.5	13.4
1.30	Laing (J)	255	+ 1	4.4	31.5
1.30	Laing 6.4% Cv Pf	96		8.2	
1.17	Lovell (Pt)	13	- ½		
4.58	Macmillan (J)	198	+ 6	3.6	10.5
1.30	Mcalpine (Kl)	318	+ 4	4.5	17.0
1.30	McCarthy & Sty	1650½	- ½	2.9	11.9
1.70	Morgan Sndall	84	- 1	1.3	
1.30	Morrison Const	83		4.3	12.0
1.30	Mowlem (J)	184	- 3	4.3	29.2
1.30	Persimmon	615	+ 5	1.8	14.1
1.30	Pochins	160	- 13	4.8	13.3
1.30	Prowting	14½		4.3	
1.30	Ranie Hd	121	+ 1	3.3	12.2
1.30	Redhne	68	- 4	2.1	11.4
1.30	Sacone Bstns	312	- 1	2.6	11.5
1.30	Shanlt Hldgs'Sr	2			11.5
1.30	Shanks	73		6.7	11.5
1.30	Spandex	308		1.0	22.9
1.30	Tay Homes	132	- 2	2.2	9.8
1.30	Taylor Woodrw	135	- 4	2.1	25.9
1.30	Tilbury Douglas	426	- 8	8.2	14.5
1.30	Trafalgar H	9	- 1		6.7
1.30	Try Group	47½		5.4	16.1
1.30	Ulsterbank	522	+ 7	5.5	6.9
1.30	Wallstrmpn	67		6.5	8.1
1.30	Ward Hdgs	52		3.8	11.6
1.30	Wernbury	130		3.8	14.1
1.30	Wiggins	6¾			36.1
1.30	Wilkinson (D)	362	- 5	3.4	13.5
1.30	Wilson Bowdn	351	- 6	3.3	13.9
1.30	Wimpey (G	135	- 4	5.1	19.7

BUILDING MATERIALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
26	Alkyglen	14	- 1		
10	BPB Ind	314	- 1	3.7	14.6
80	Baggeridge Brick	107	+ 1	3.9	13.3
80	Bardon	197½	- 1	6.8	17.8
70	Blendhrst	54	- ½	4.6	
70	Blue Circle	365	- 14	4.3	15.7
70	Brmptn PLC	82	+ 4	6.9	12.0
70	Br Dredging	679		5.5	16.7
70	CRH	536	+ 1	2.0	19.4
70	Caldwood Pbr	49		3.0	
70	Cape	143	- 6	9.6	11.1
70	Caradon	216	- 10	5.5	11.2
70	Caradon pf	116	- 3½	7.9	
70	Chepstow Gp	83		10.8	
70	Cookson PLC	158	- 17	3.2	12.9
70	Cmbs A	211	- 11	7.2	5.7
70	Epwin	124	- 1	5.2	11.9
70	Fibre	93			
70	Gibbs & Dandy	84	- ½	4.3	
70	Hollton Grp	104	- 2	3.9	17.8
70	Hollstead Jnt	424	- 2	2.6	17.6
70	Heywood's	303	+ 4	6.1	13.9
70	Hewetson	467		3.9	15.3
70	Hnywd Wlr	227	- 1	7.8	11.7
70	Ibstock	185		2.3	12.4
70	Jewsbury	134	- 1	3.7	8.2
70	Lilleshall	71		10.2	8.2
70	Marley	103	- 3	4.9	10.7
70	Marshalls'C'	163		3.9	11.5
70	Meyer Int	336	+ 9	3.6	14.9
70	Newman Tbls	201	- 2	3.5	14.9
70	Norcros	96	- 3		
70	Pilkms Timber	201			19.7
70	Pilkington'Y'	167	- 2	3.8	15.9
70	Polypipe	197	+ 1	3.7	18.4
70	RMC Gp	1608	- 24	2.7	13.7
70	Redland	416	+ 8	5.7	12.5
70	Redhd	94	+ 1	5.7	9.8
70	Richmond	112	- 13	6.1	11.0
70	Ringtly Srtco	112	- 2	4.0	14.4
70	Ruberoid (A)	225		3.5	12.4
70	Sisk	4			
70	Steeple & Fisher	169	+ 4	3.7	13.4
70	Spring Ram	30	+ ½	3.3	
70	Tarmac	185½	+ 2	5.4	16.2
70	Tarmac	148	+ 6	4.9	13.5
70	Tates Pictons	355		5.2	14.9
70	Tilcon	351		5.1	17.8
70	Waterhouse'D'	2			
70	Wellseley	63	- 11	2.8	15.6

CHEMICALS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
60	Abrgnt & Wy	191	- 9	4.7	16.9
60	Allied Colloids	207		3.1	19.7
60	Avdel Int	238		4.2	13.6
60	Ampere Ind	2			
60	BOC Tst	1045½	- 119½	3.8	
60	BTR	1194½	- 14½	3.5	19.0
60	BTP	1097	- 31½	3.0	16.4
60	Barry Ehlkt	1194½	- 31½	3.0	
60	Bodycot	59		4.9	22.2
60	Br Vita	390	- 2	4.6	13.8
60	Chemng Int	1	- ½	4.6	12.8
60	Clarkson	1	- ½	4.6	19.2
60	Coates	94	- 2	3.4	14.5
60	Dooley	71	- 6	3.4	14.0
60	Dtr & Everard	1	- 2	4.0	14.4
60	Elementis	1	- 2	4.3	20.2
60	Fitzgerald	1		2.9	13.5
60	Fosbor	1		4.3	11.4
60	Gallaher	1		4.3	11.4
60	Gen Chemicals	1		4.3	11.4
60	Gtech	1		4.3	11.4
60	Hickson Int	1		4.3	11.4
60	Hoskins Horton	1		4.3	11.4
60	Imperial Chem	1		4.3	11.4
60	Inchcape	1		4.3	11.4
60	Jacobs	1		4.3	11.4
60	Johnson Matth	1		4.3	11.4
60	Jones Chemnts	1		4.3	11.4
60	Kalon	1		4.3	11.4
60	Kelsey Ind	1		4.3	11.4
60	Lancer	1		4.3	11.4
60	Lawter (I) A	1		4.3	11.4
60	Mk Hldgs	1		4.3	11.4
60	MS Int	1		4.3	11.4
60	Mang Brwgs	1		4.3	11.4
60	McKechnie	1		4.3	11.4
60	Morgan	1		4.3	11.4

DISTRIBUTORS

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (p)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
60	ABF Un	1			
60	Adam & Lacy	1			
60	Allen Eqnty	1			
60	Amsterdy Metal	1			
60	BBA	1			
60	Bt Group	1			
60	Bnn	1			
60	Babcock	1			
60	Bailey (CH)	1			
60	Bryson (Charles)	1			
60	Bradford	1			
60	Brmpton Group	1			
60	Bidport	1			
60	Bidgrnds	1			
60	Bndt Inds	1			
60	Bnnt	1			
60	Brwn	1			
60	Bnnt	1			
60	Bnnt	1			
60	Bnnt

RESULTS AND STATISTICS

TODAY
Interims: Armour Trust, Bryant Group, Second Alliance Trust.
Finals: Olim Convertible Trust.
Economic statistics: UK January producer prices, IOD report on EU social policies.

TOMORROW
Interims: BOC Group (Q1).
Finals: British Petroleum, Johnson Fry Second Utilities Trust, Kleinwort Overseas Investment Trust, Reuters, St Modwen Properties, TR Pacific Investment Trust, Updown Investment, Warrants & Value Investment Trust.
Economic statistics: new construction orders (Dec), Retail Consortium January sales.

WEDNESDAY
Interims: Hanson (Q1).
Finals: Eaglet Investment Trust, Flying Flowers, Lloyds Abbey Life, Scottish American Investment, Vardon.
Economic statistics: Bank of England quarterly inflation report, January labour market statistics.

THURSDAY
Interims: Armitage Brothers, Pantheon International Participations.
Finals: CLM Insurance Fund, General Consolidated Investment Trust, Greenfriar Investment, Mersey Docks and Harbour, Royal Dutch/Shell, Ward Holdings.
Economic statistics: January retail prices index, US December factory orders, Bundesbank central council meeting.

FRIDAY
Interims: Birse Group.
Finals: Baring Tribune Investment Trust, Lloyds TSB.
Economic statistics: January PSBR, US November and December construction spending, US November business inventories.

SUNDAY TIPS

The Sunday Times: **Buy** Reuters, Johnson Matthey, Clubhaus. **Hold** Bryant. *The Sunday Telegraph*: **Buy** Vardon, Hanson, Transport Development. *The Observer*: **Sell** Redland. **Buy** WMI. *The Independent on Sunday*: **Buy** Johnson Matthey, BAA. **Sell** Eidos. *The Mail on Sunday*: **Buy** Wyndeham Press.

COMPANIES

Oil giants move into spotlight

THE oil companies hold centre stage this week, with the "big two", BP and Shell, unveiling figures. However, the focus of attention will not be on their oil activities, but on just how badly their chemical interests have performed during the present downturn.

BP: Full-year figures tomorrow from the company, of which Sir David Simon is chairman, are likely to reveal a downturn in profits during the final quarter, reflecting problems within the chemicals division.

Bruce Evers, oil analyst at Henderson Crosthwaite, the broker, is looking for net profits to grow by £90 million to £517 million, but with the group having achieved a third-quarter performance of £532 million, this is unlikely to inspire the City.

A combination of high exploration write-offs during the final quarter and a fall-off in activity on the chemicals side will be blamed for the downturn.

In addition, the group has suffered a 1 per cent reduction in volume, although domestic gas sales were higher in spite of surplus stocks and the warm weather.

Refining was flat during the third quarter, with margins under pressure. Margins, generally, will prove erratic at best — especially in the US. The petrol price war initiated after the Budget will have also put margins under pressure.

BP has announced plans to restructure its downstream assets. The £700 million charge will be taken below the line. The fourth-quarter dividend is expected to be maintained on the previous quarter, resulting in a total payout of 15p.

SHELL: It will have become a familiar tale by the time Shell also unveils final figures on Thursday. The impact of the downturn in the chemical industry will be more evident than with BP. Henderson says that it expects net profits to have fallen from £1.6 billion to £1.1 billion.

However, last year's figure was inflated by about £500 million on exceptional profits relating to Hong Kong property gains. Once that figure is stripped out, the group's performance becomes almost static. UBS, the broker, is forecasting profits outside the US to drop 30 per cent from the third-quarter level. This mainly reflects its reliance on the bulk polymers market.

Mr Evers, of Henderson, says: "Obviously, if earnings from either company disappoint, it will force people to trim their 1996 estimates."

HANSON: Having seen more than £1 billion wiped from its stock market value since announcing plans to split the company, investors will no doubt be hoping the share price can make up some of the lost ground when the first-quarter figures are announced on Wednesday. They are likely to be disappointed.

Analysts are forecasting a drop in pre-tax profits of about 6 per cent to £252 million, with earnings down about 4 per cent at 3.7p. This is in spite of a first full contribution from Eastern Electricity, for which it paid £2.5 billion last year. Much of the blame will lie with Quantum, the group's US operation.

REUTERS: The group has enjoyed double-digit revenue growth in recent years, but that looks set to change, which is why the City will be paying closer attention than usual to full-year figures tomorrow.

Towards the end of last year, Reuters braced the City for the first signs of a slowdown in its phenomenal growth record by telling it to start expecting single-digit revenue growth. Even so, brokers are forecasting a 16 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to almost £600 million, while earnings advance 15 per cent to 25p a share.

Much of the growth will be generated by the group's transaction operations, including Instinet, its computerised securities trading system, which is expected to have enjoyed a robust performance. Word is that D2-2 will also have moved into the black. But even if there are signs of a slowdown, UBS, the broker, hopes this will be offset by possible news of a share buyback programme.

LLOYDS TSB: On Friday, the group will be publishing its first set of figures since merging towards the end of last year. They should make impressive reading, revealing the best trading profits of all Britain's banks. Pre-tax profits for the full year are expected to have grown by about 10 per cent to £2 billion, supported by a five-month contribution from its recent acquisition, Cheltenham & Gloucester, and further cost cutting. But the figures will be hit by a charge of almost £500 million relating to restructuring. Shareholders are likely to be rewarded with a 15 per cent increase in the dividend to 11p.

BOC Group: First-quarter figures tomorrow are expected to reflect a buoyant industrial gases market. They should also highlight the benefits accruing from recent restructuring and investment. In fact, gases should provide the main thrust to a £19 million increase in pre-tax profits to £105 million. But trading conditions are less positive elsewhere in the group. BOC's healthcare operation has been hit by generic competition to its Forane treatment, while in the US, order books for anaesthetic equipment show signs of decline.

The vacuum operation has also been a strong performer, but this is expected to be offset by a disappointing performance from the distribution side, where non-Marks & Spencer margins have come under fresh pressure. BOC is now embarking on a restructuring programme for this part of the business.



BP's Sir David Simon will have found margins under pressure because of the petrol price war

City expected to focus on Bank report

This week sees a string of key British statistics, kicking off today with January figures for costs and prices in industry. According to the consensus of forecasts compiled by MMS International, producer input prices are expected to rise by only 0.1 per cent, allowing the annual rate to fall to 4.4 per cent from 5.8 per cent in December.

Output prices paid at the factory gate are forecast to rise by 0.5 per cent, pushing the year-on-year increase down to 3.8 per cent from 4.3 per cent.

The next focus for the markets will be Wednesday's *Quarterly Bulletin and Inflation Report* from the Bank of England. This will be particularly closely looked at by the City for any further clues as to the Bank's attitude towards the second of two cuts in the base rate during January.

The Bank refused to comment on the cut, fuelling speculation that it had opposed the Chancellor of the Exchequer on the issue. The minutes of the January monthly monetary meeting are published on Wednesday next week.

Also this Wednesday comes publication of unemployment statistics for January, with the market consensus forecast looking for a fall in headline unemployment of 5,000, compared with the decline of 7,900 in December.

Annual average earnings growth in December is expected to have edged up to 3.5 per cent from 3.25 per cent, while year-on-year growth in unit wage costs is expected to remain at 4 per cent.

On Thursday, January retail prices figures are due to be published. Headline inflation is forecast to have dropped 0.3 per cent in January, taking the annual rate down to 2.9 per cent from 3.2 per cent. The underlying rate of inflation is expected to fall to 2.8 per cent from 3 per cent, and RPIY, which excludes mortgage interest payments and indirect taxes, is forecast to stay unchanged at 2.1 per cent.

The last key British statistic of the week comes on Friday with the January public sector borrowing requirement. One of the key months for corporation tax receipts, there is expected to be a net repayment or borrowing of £4.5 billion after a borrowing requirement of £1.04 billion in December.

One key international event to watch out for is the Thursday meeting of the Bundesbank's policy-making council which will discuss German interest rates.

JANET BUSH

Heavitree Brewery heads for listing

HEAVITREE BREWERY will soon join the growing swell of smaller independent breweries to float when it goes for a listing on the Alternative Investment Market. Heavitree follows a number of brewers which have seized on growing confidence in the fortunes of smaller drinks companies as the market gets increasingly tough for the larger businesses in a tight market.

The move may add a little sparkle to AIM, which has suffered from more lacklustre trading recently. Dealers report a general feeling of caution feeding through from the main stock market, which many watchers believe is sliding towards a correction. Julian Palfreyman of Winterflood Securities, which is one of the main players in AIM, said: "Last week was quite tough. Many eyes have been on Wall Street and there is some waiting to see what might happen before investors make too many moves."

Those shares which did shake up some action last week included SkyePharma, the pharmaceuticals company which joined the market at the start of the year with a valuation of £33.6 million, and Crown Products.

There was also some interest in Voss Net, the company which is marketing an interactive online electronic trading system, after it struck a licensing agreement with Petra Corporation, a US company operating in the same area. The deal means US exposure for Voss Net and could lead to expansion into the Pacific Rim.

The subdued activity this month contrasts with the strong start to the year made by AIM. In January, turnover on the alternative exchange passed the £100 million a month mark for the first time when it reached £123.5 million. That figure had jumped 47 per cent from £84.3 million in December and was boosted by a number of new companies trading on AIM. The number on AIM is now 126.

The index for AIM shares, which was launched at the start of the year, rose nearly 5 per cent to 1049 over the month.

CHRISTINE BUCKLEY

ALTERNATIVE INVESTMENT MARKET

Mkt cap (million)	Company	Price (pence)	Wkly +/-	Yld %	P/E
15.50	AMCO Corp	109	– 3	5.2	12.0
2.42	Abacus Recruit	46	+ 18	...	...
19.20	A de Gruchy	120	+ 5	5.4	10.8
11.60	African Gold	11¼	– 1¼	...	...
4.83	Albemarle & Bd	13	...	...	...
10.50	Alpha Omikron	20	– 2	...	...
37.30	Ann St Brewery	390	– 5	5.6	11.7
5.30	Ann St Cv Pf	895	...	8.9	...
71.10	Anlomov	100	– 11	...	...
2.13	Anon Props	9	...	...	...
11.70	Ash Central	73	...	...	...
1.05	Athelney Trust	58	...	...	...
6.28	Ballymaltray	6	...	...	...
4.62	Barn Hldgs	18	...	...	...
3.65	Belcanto	43	– 2	...	...
0.96	Boumeos Leis	140	...	...	...
	Bown Leis Cv Pf	70	...	...	...
5.02	Broncote Hldgs	50	...	...	...
36.00	Brockbank	305	– 5	2.6	30.5
0.94	CCI Hldgs	118	...	...	...
0.13	CCI Founder Shs	110	...	...	...
3.29	Cafe Inns	115	+ 10	2.2	9.5
7.95	Caledonian Tst	70	...	...	8.5
13.50	Card Clear	60	...	...	...
3.25	Cassidy Bros	60	– 8	6.2	8.6
1.87	Cavendish W F	43	...	...	21.8
4.99	Celebrated Group	17	– 1	...	...
17.50	Celtic	6750	...	...	...
	Celtic Pf Shs	6750	...	...	...
15.80	CI Comms(TV)	117	...	2.6	15.0
7.25	Chatwell Intl	68	...	...	...
0.99	Clan Homes	110	...	...	...
13.10	ClubPartners	31	...	...	...
12.20	Com de Pri Fin	510	...	...	...
7.59	Conister Tst	38	...	2.6	16.3
13.10	Country Gdns	71	+ 11	2.1	14.7
2.68	Cntry Gdns Pf	73	+ 3	9.1	...
33.80	Creds Intl	94	– 5	...	...
14.60	Crown Products	55	...	...	...
10.80	DBS Management	160	– 5	4.7	6.5
	Dalkeith Inds	35	– 1	...	...
3.58	David Glass	66	...	5.5	9.4
52.20	Dawson Hldgs	1140	+ 10	3.3	...
3.50	Dean Corp	12	...	...	70.2
13.50	Dmatek	72	– 4	...	...
93.80	Electrophorebics Intl	145	– 13	...	...
5.62	Euro Sales Fin	125	...	...	...
	Fartale	340	...	...	...
3.18	Finl Publs	135	...	...	...
24.50	Firecrest	147	– 21	...	63.9
5.51	Flomenics	215	...	...	19.5
6.81	Floral St	293	+ 30	0.4	...
17.20	Formscan	163	+ 13	1.5	21.2
4.80	Furlong Homes	96	+ 1	3.1	5.1
28.20	Gander Hdgs	93½	+ ½	...	...
5.70	Greenhills	19	+ 1	...	...
32.40	Gollon	145	...	3.4	13.1
3.67	Hansom	36	...	...	...
56.60	Hiscox Ded Ins	125	...	0.3	...
10.90	Indpt Radio	109	...	...	...
14.40	Inner Workings	86	– 2	...	...
21.50	Intl Greetings	513	– 5	1.2	...
3.67	Jasmin	90	...	...	13.5
19.10	Jennings Bros	295	+ 5	2.7	21.2
43.50	KS Biomedix	115	+ 5	...	...
25.30	Lancashire Enterprises	140	– 2	3.6	...
14.60	Lawrence	240	+ 5	0.8	...
53.70	Lawrie Group	2750	...	3.2	14.0
44.80	Le Riches Strs	270	– 12	7.1	26.4
	Lifehome Ac Ten	95	...	...	...
26.60	Lon Fiduciary	29½	– ½	...	...
1.53	London Town	65	...	...	...
12.40	Lonrho Grp	218	+ 3	2.2	...
13.00	Mars & O'seas	22	+ 4	1.8	24.6
43.90	Megalomedia	102	+ 2	...	...
	Megalomedia Wts	85	...	...	...
5.57	Mellish	88	...	...	39.3
257.50	Memory Corp	435	– 33	...	...
6.04	Metrodome Films	21	...	...	...
14.00	Moorepay	185	...	3.0	...
9.08	Mountrichel	0¾	...	...	...
13.50	MultiMedia	69	+ 1	...	...
25.50	NWF Grp	340	...	2.4	16.4
	Nash (Wm)	210	...	3.9	...
8.42	Neill Clerk	335	...	2.2	16.2
5.63	Neilson Coldbold	205	+ ½	2.3	...
	Nercity S	70	...	...	...
	Northames	77	+ 1	...	...
7.79	Nthn Petrol	68	– 5	...	...
0.13	Nthn Petrol Wts	6	...	...	...
	Nthmb Res Prtn	70	...	...	...
17.90	Nursing Home	116	...	1.3	33.4
11.00	Old English Pub	92	...	1.4	...
5.24	Omnicare	85	+ 1	2.2	14.1
10.70	Omnimedia	60	...	...	...
16.00	Pacific Media	1½	+ ¼	...	...
	Pacific Med Pf	51	– 1	...	...
15.20	Pan Andean Res	37	+ 5	...	...
4.66	Park Estat(Lv)	195	...	...	...
89.30	Pet City	368	+ 3	...	...
29.40	Polymasc Pharma	147	+ 3	...	...
3.62	Preston Nth E	400	...	...	...
1.13	Revelation Piccadilly	105	...	...	...
11.20	Riceman Intnl	17	...	...	...
3.38	Rushmere Wynne	3¼	...	...	...
0.09	Rush Wyn Wts	1	...	...	...
8.54	SCS Sciaire	83	– 15	...	...
5.57	Scotswood Inds	25	+ 2	5.1	...
	Scott Pride	40	+ 2	...	...
13.40	Scrutton	220	...	5.8	11.4
3.21	Self Sealing	55	...	...	...
	Silkbarn	3	...	...	...
58.20	SkyePharma	8¼	– 1¼	...	...
1.00	SkyePharma 6 Wts	6¼	+ ¼	...	...
130.90	Southern News	555	+ 6	3.5	15.5
	Southern Vectis	50	– 1	...	...
79.00	Stanford Rook	430	+ 20	...	...
17.20	Surrey Fr Inns	170	+ 23	1.5	20.0
42.60	TRACKER Netwk	805	...	...	...
5.15	Tele Cred Ent	51	...	...	...
	Tele Cred Wts	36	– 2	...	...
17.30	Toad	105	...	...	...
	Trinity Care	175	– 5	1.1	...
	Trinity Care Pf	170	+ 5	...	...
228.00	Trocadero	54	...	...	...
	Uavent	40	...	...	...
8.15	Utd Auctions	458	...	1.1	...
12.30	VIDC	735	+110	3.3	12.9
35.70	Versailles Grp	13½	...	...	22.0
5.75	Viewfin	192	– 8	...	...
	Voss	260	+ 28	...	...
	Wedderburn Secs	11	– 1	...	...
	Wedd Secs Wnts	4	– 1	...	...
5.25	Western Selectn	15	+ 1	...	59.7
2.82	Westmount Engy	50	– 1	...	...
6.76	W'chester M Md	61	...	...	...
	Wynnstay Props	145	...	...	...
26.30	Zergo	285	...	...	...

Market sell-off is an opportunity to buy, not the start of a slide

Is history repeating itself? As in early 1994, gold prices are soaring, while yields on long gilts and ten-year German bunds are both about 40 basis points above their lows. Is a 1994-style bond market crash on the way?

In our view, the recent shake-out is a reasonable buying opportunity rather than the start of a big slide. We expect gilts to match or outperform the global norm, with long yields falling back to 7.7 per cent in the coming months. At the same time, sterling is likely to be among the strongest European currencies, rising above DM2.35 this year.

There are three key differences between the current position and that of early 1994. First, global growth is weaker. In early 1994, business surveys in the US, UK and other EU countries showed rapid gains in new orders. By contrast, the last CBI survey showed falling business confidence and the weakest orders for three years. Business surveys in the US and other EU countries are even gloomier.

Secondly, the overhang of leveraged bond-market positions seems to be smaller. Sterling bank loans to UK-based securities dealers rose by 23 per cent last year, whereas they rose by 90 per cent during the 1993 bond bubble. There has been no rerun of 1993's huge speculative buying of gilts by banks and overseas investors.

Finally, bond valuations are not as stretched. In early 1994, real long gilt yields were about 2.5 per cent, which allowed little margin for inflation risks. Now, real yields are 5 per cent — slightly above the average of the past decade. Moreover, inflation is likely to surprise on the downside. The consensus expects inflation to stay above the authorities' 2.5 per cent target for this year and next. However, lead inflation guides are pointing lower. Manufacturers' price expectations have weakened sharply and today's data are likely to show another big drop in output price inflation. Over the past decade, these indicators have been better than gold as a guide to future inflation trends.

> "We expect gilts to match or outperform the global norm"

We expect underlying inflation to fall to 2.5 per cent later this year and to stay around that level next year. This would imply five consecutive years with inflation below 4 per cent, which is without precedent in 60 years, outside wartime. The recent gains in broad money and credit are not a threat to this low inflation scenario. The credit surge largely reflects takeover activity rather than, as in the 1980s, higher spending on investment, consumption and mortgages. The takeover boom will give some boost to the real economy via higher equity prices and payouts to shareholders in target companies. However, these effects are quite weak compared with the spending boom that lay behind the credit surge during the 1980s. In any case, the economy has enough slack that a modest recovery in growth will not cause capacity strains this year or next.

A rising pound, and resultant drop in import prices, could be the trigger for a gilt rally. Sentiment is likely to turn against the core ERM currencies because of the sharp slowdown in those economies. Although the UK economy has slowed, it is outpacing the core European economies by a wide margin.

The Bundesbank has signalled its desire for a lower mark, while the United Kingdom authorities probably would not resist a modest gain in the pound. Sterling is highly undervalued compared with its long-run norms and a slight rise would still leave exporters with a huge competitive edge.

Signs that inflation is retreating will allow base rates to fall to 6 per cent in the coming months. Unless the next government surprisingly loosens fiscal policy, then they are likely to stay around 6 per cent next year, in contrast to the sharply rising rate path shown by short sterling futures.

MICHAEL SAUNDERS
Salomon Brothers

Answers from page 57

MITHRIDATISE
(c) Gradually to make immune to a poison, by the consumption over a long period of increasing doses. Eponym from Mithridates, King of Pontus from 120 to 63 BC, who is said to have so poison-proofed himself. "I tell the tale that I heard told. Mithridates, he died old." "No, the spices do not worry me at all, Mrs Varadarajan. After ten years of Isabella's cooking I am quite mithridatised."

SUCCUSSION
(a) Shaking. It may not be widely known that Jerry Lee Lewis's masterpiece *Whole lotta shakin' goin' on* was originally scripted as *Whole lotta succussion goin on*. It was changed after protests from bigots from the Moral Majority, under the (mistaken) impression that *succussion* referred to an indelicate form of sexual congress.

AUTOCHTHON
(c) The original inhabitant, a posh and highfalutin synonym for *aboriginal*, from the Greek for "springing from the ground itself". There is no such word as *aborigine*, but *aborigines* is an acceptable plural for *aboriginals*. "So you have qualified not just for your 25-year decanter but for your 30-year silver-plated salver? Truly, Christopher, you are one of the firm's autochthons."

FACINOROUS
(c) Exceedingly wicked, from the Latin *facinus, facinoris* an evil deed. "I propose to say no more about my opponent in this vital election, for I believe that politics ought to be about ideals and policies, not personalities. But I just want to say that all of us here recognise his truly facinorous nature."

SOLUTION TO WINNING CHESS MOVE
1 Qa5! Ka1 2 Nc3 or f ... Kc1 2 Qe1 are both checkmate.

	Bank Buys	Bank Sells
Australia $	2.12	1.96
Austria Sch	16.93	15.43
Belgium Fr	49.56	45.26
Canada $	2.213	2.053
Cyprus Cypē	0.759	0.704
Denmark Kr	9.36	8.58
Finland Mrk	7.65	7.00
France Fr	8.20	7.55
Germany Dm	2.42	2.21
Greece Dr	394.00	369.00
Hong Kong $	12.50	11.50
Ireland Pt	1.02	0.94
Israel Shk	5.1800	4.5300
Italy Lire	2516.00	2307.00
Japan Yen	177.90	161.90
Malta	0.594	0.539
Netherlds Gld	2.668	2.458
New Zealand $	2.42	2.20
Norway Kr	10.47	9.67
Portugal Esc	246.50	226.00
S Africa Rd	nal.	6.34
Spain Pta	196.00	185.00
Sweden Kr	11.34	10.54
Switzerland Fr	1.98	1.80
Turkey Lira	refer	93408.0
USA $	1.631	1.501

Rates for small denomination bank notes only as supplied by Barclays Bank plc. Different rates apply to travellers' cheques. Rates as at close of trading on Friday.

CHANGE ON WEEK

US dollar
1.5318 (+0.0126)
German mark
2.2632 (+0.0048)
Exchange index
84.1 (+0.4)
Bank of England official close (4pm)

FT 30 share
2727.7 (-57.1)
FT-SE 100
3716.3 (-65.0)
New York Dow Jones
5541.62 (+167.63)
Tokyo Nikkei Avge
20934.82 (+30.79)

Store card credit at £600m for Christmas

British consumers used credit like never before in December's key Christmas shopping period, according to figures today from the Finance & Leasing Association (FLA).

The association said that credit on store cards hit a record monthly high of £598 million in December, a jump of 21 per cent compared with the previous year. In 1995 as a whole, consumers took out more than £20 billion of credit from FLA members, a rise of 16 per cent over 1994.

This is a much larger increase than the 7 per cent implied by the Bank of England's consumer credit figures, suggesting that the finance industry has sharply increased its market share.

Training lags

Britain's small firms admit they are not training their staff as much as they should due to lack of time and money, a survey published today claims. Ninety per cent of the 375 companies questioned by the British Chambers of Commerce (BCC) and Alex Lawrie, the business finance specialist, recognise that their employees' skills, particularly on computers, need improving. Most (65 per cent) said management staff needed to upgrade their supervisory skills. But firms are overwhelmingly against compulsory training — just 9 per cent would be in favour. Chris Greenall, BCC head of policy, said: "Training provision in small firms is clearly unsatisfactory."

Bulls fading

The latest Merrill Lynch-Gallup survey of British fund managers finds that they are becoming less optimistic about the near term and the one-year outlook for UK equities. On balance, the bulls lead the bears by 16 per cent on a three-month view, but this is down from 44 per cent in January.

Clothing boost

Keen pricing by clothing retailers boosted consumer spending on clothing, which rose by 4.5 per cent last year despite the tough market conditions, reports Verdict, the retail specialist. Prospects for 1996 are better than at any time since the late 1980s.

Lloyd's plan

Lloyd's Names will today be given details of Lloyd's £2.8 billion reconstruction and renewal plan aimed at resolving the mass of legal actions and at providing them with an affordable exit from the insurance market. Names will not get final figures until March.

Times must have changed if Hanson can do no right

Lord Hanson built his £10 billion conglomerate on a single, coherent idea. Quoted companies exist solely to maximise returns to shareholders. That meant delivering more each year. Over the past 15 years, the rest of the Anglo-Saxon world has adopted this harsh but simple discipline. City fund managers now demand no less. They resolved a long-running dispute with big business over "short-termism" with a crushing victory over the managers, aided by the lessons of two recessions. But does it work? As Lord Hanson, now 74, comes up for retirement, the case is looking shaky.

In the Hanson canon, the annual shareholders' meeting gradually took on an important symbolic role. It was the occasion when the board's report to shareholders demonstrated that it had delivered, and shareholders (aside from the odd misfit or non-financial protestor) expressed their gratitude. So it was that, after a depressing six months on the stock market, Lord Hanson pulled off a splendid *coup de théâtre* at the group's agm, aimed to promise better things. Hanson would break itself into four chunks.

All present must have hoped that the share price would perk up in the fortnight before Hanson reported its first-quarter profits this week. It had sagged by an alarming 16 per cent while the index surged by a fifth. The old takeover king certainly tried his best. His plan was typical of the fast-moving opportunism of the halcyon years. By financial engineering, Hanson would do unto itself what it had done to so many others. Hanson shares, which had reversed a steep six-month slide in mid-December, immediately jumped. But it did not last. In the next nine trading days, they relapsed to their December low.



Lords Hanson and White could never have turned a £2 million company into a £12 billion conglomerate, at its peak, unless they had the momentum of City sentiment behind them. Now, that sentiment has turned implacably negative. First, former fans decided that the plan could was not well thought out. Hanson spent £2.5 billion buying Britain's Eastern electricity utility only five months ago as evidence of its new strategy. Now, Eastern was to be spun off, paired with Peabody, America's biggest coal miner. Then the new critics convinced themselves that the break-up would merely cut the huge dividends that had become the main lure of Hanson shares.

So far, however, few have suggested that Lord Hanson should abandon his Samsonian retirement plan. The conglomerate that still brings together plastics, trees, cigarettes and vitamin pills, has been written off. So too, have conglomerates in general. Tighter accounting standards make it much harder to hide the costs and enhance short-term benefits of takeovers. The spread of the Hanson philosophy and continuous cost-cutting in industry has left fewer big targets that can have cash returns quickly boosted to fund the next, bigger takeover.

Businesses united by a management system or by financial logic need not, however, be less successful than those linked by marketing, production process or product area. There might be equal sense in linking businesses with opposite cyclical risks, or yoking cash-generators with big investments elsewhere.

Hanson itself seems to be following the usual conglomerate cycle. Takeover vehicles depend on being worth more than their parts. Their share rating must be higher than companies they own or buy could justify on their own right. Acquisitive conglomerates usually start with ambitious energetic individuals. Once they have shown some skill, their small company will be given a high hope rating, enabling them to accelerate by buying lower-rated companies.

The bigger they grow, the harder it becomes to keep up the pace. Once momentum slows, the logic unwinds. The share rating slips, making it harder to buy companies for shares and harder to boost earnings from cash takeovers.

Shares in Hanson now yield 8 per cent, more than the Government has to pay on its debt. Once the buying and selling no longer generates extra earnings and cash, why should the takeover king's shares be valued higher than its underlying businesses would be. This process has come full circle at Hanson. The knockers have probably overdone things, but they should not have been surprised that Hanson's parts will not earn a high rating on their own unless they are candidates to be taken over by others. Like Lonrho, Trafalgar House and perhaps next P&O, Hanson's life cycle coincided with the energies of its creators.

A more critical test will come at BTR, the widely scattered £12 billion group created via a management revolution by young Turks within a sagging rubber group. Its team approach is more systematic, based on management method and insisting on retirement at 60 to keep up the energy. But the new team from outside has yet to prove itself.

Is it politically symbolic that Forte and Hanson, two of the four top corporate contributors to the Conservative Party, are now in their twilight, and that a third, P&O, is coming under City pressure? Dominance by individuals probably provides a likelier link. There is, however, a wider message from Hanson's decline. It symbolised the era of industry's adjustment to tough markets, tougher competition and high interest rates. Groups such as Hanson did the economy a service by liberating fat, squeezing costs and rationing investment in mature businesses to cope.

Cost disciplines must remain but that adjustment phase is over. The new task is to invest, to grow and to keep ahead of competitors, to create products rather than financial vehicles. The Hanson era has left the wrong people in boardrooms, and the wrong mentality among City investors, to do it.

Bids threat to merger of MAI and United News

BY ERIC REGULY

CITY investment firms are fuelling speculation that a bidding war will prevent MAI and United News & Media from completing their £3 billion merger.

Some of the firms have taken the view that the proposed merger, which would be done though a share swap that offers no premium, lacks industrial logic and was probably planned as a defensive move.

Both companies were widely viewed as takeover targets long before the merger plans were announced last Thursday. United was approached last year by a couple of groups that were interested in buying its ailing Express newspaper titles.

Neill Junor of NatWest Securities is one analyst who thinks that the MAI-United merger has, in effect, placed "for sale" signs on the companies. In a note published on Friday, he wrote: "We are not convinced this deal will go ahead. MAI is a critical franchise within the ITV network and we believe that Carlton will be prompted to make a counter-bid."

Michael Green, chief executive of Carlton Communications, the largest ITV company, cut short a Caribbean holiday when the MAI-United deal was announced and he is thought to have been approached by institutional investors about launching a counter-bid for MAI.

Mr Green, however, is known to be a conservative investor and has never become involved in a hostile takeover. But one media executive noted that unless Mr Green changes his investment stance, the consolidation of the TV industry in advance of the Broadcasting Bill could leave him out in the cold.

The Bill, now making its way through Parliament, allows any group to own as many ITV licences as it wants as long as it does not exceed 15 per cent of the viewing audience.

Carlton, with the London weekday and central England licences, has a 9.4 per cent share. MAI, with the Anglia and Meridian licences, has 5.4 per cent. Together, Carlton and MAI would just slip under the limit.

Although Carlton is the most obvious candidate for MAI, others exist. Analysts think the diverse holdings of both MAI and United make them ideal break-up candidates.

MAI, for example, has a variety of money and securities broking companies that could be sold, while United has a large magazine publishing and exhibitions business. If the market were strong and the sales well timed, the purchaser might be able to sell off at a profit the parts he does not want.

Lord Stevens, chairman of United, last week said he did not fear a counter-bid for United. "If someone wants to bid for us, why haven't they done it yet?" he said.



Hilary Cropper, chief executive, wants to capitalise on growth opportunities in the software and computer services industry

FI Group plans £60m flotation

BY MARTIN WALLER

THE £60 million debut of FI Group, a supplier of computer software services, is expected on the stock market this spring.

Hilary Cropper, chief executive, said flotation would help the company to capitalise on the expected growth opportunities in the software and computer services industry.

The company, the subject of a 1991 buyout by its workforce, concentrates on the finance, retail, leisure and service sectors. FI's customers are typically large organisations requiring large-scale, integrated information technology services.

The float will be by way of a placing, with UBS and Graville & Co appointed joint sponsors and UBS the company's broker. The business, which was founded in 1962, made pre-tax profits of £2.1 million on turnover of £37.4 million for the six months to October 31.

Revlon stake for sale in international offering

FROM RICHARD THOMPSON IN NEW YORK

RON PERELMAN, the US entrepreneur, is trying to sell about 15 per cent of Revlon for $150 million, in an international share offering that values the company at only half the amount of earlier failed attempts.

The new offering, in which shares will be sold in London as well as the US and other financial centres, prices Revlon shares at about $20 each and the whole company at $1 billion. But it is a highly risky move that could backfire on Mr Perelman if it fails as the previous attempts have done.

The offering is partly designed to raise much-needed capital so that Mr Perelman can meet an obligation to pay $1.1 billion to the company's bondholders in less than two years' time. If he misses the deadline, he will lose control of the company.

Revlon is unable to generate the cash required to meet the payment because of its mounting debt and persistent losses over the last few years which turned into a profit of only $3.3 million in the last quarter of 1995 after savage price-cutting boosted sales.

In order to stimulate interest in the sale, Mr Perelman has substantially lowered his sights. Although the $20 offer price is similar to that at which he tried to sell the shares on his first attempt in 1992, analysts said that the equivalent value after accounting for share splits and other financial engineering over the last few years, is closer to $9.50, despite the overall rise in the stock market over the same period. Because of the lower value, there are 11 underwriters for the issue including many of Wall Street's biggest broking firms.

Mr Perelman, who bought the company six years ago in a bitterly contested takeover battle, sounded out the stock market about a share issue last summer but was forced to abandon the idea after opposition from Wall Street.

He then had to watch in frustration as Estée Lauder, a leading rival in the cosmetics industry, pulled off a highly successful share offering several weeks ago. The falling value of Revlon's shares reflects the poor performance of the company, which has turned out to be one of Mr Perelman's worst investments. It has made a loss in every year since 1990.

In 1991, losses soared to nearly $200 million, shrinking to about $10 million last year. In the meantime, debt has risen and even attempts at financial engineering by entering into interest-rate swaps have lost the company money.

Bank prepares for single currency

BY OUR BUSINESS STAFF

THE Bank of England is pressing ahead with technical preparations for the introduction of European monetary union, with or without Britain's participation.

As well as working with the European Monetary Institute, the embryonic European Central Bank, and other national central banks on the transition to a single currency Europe, the Bank is also talking with the UK banking community and other economic sectors.

In its *Quarterly Bulletin*, due out on Wednesday, the Bank says it has held meetings with different interest groups, including building societies, the Confederation of British Industry, the British Retail Consortium and a wide range of market associations.

It had asked where it would be of help for the Bank to specify more precisely its own operations and to identify other areas where it might help to co-ordinate actions (including in the payments and settlements area and in markets).

The article, by John Townend, a deputy director, adds: "The Bank has also stressed the importance of considering these questions both in the context of the United Kingdom as a participant in Stage 3 and in the context of Stage 3 beginning but the United Kingdom exercising its right not to opt in."

Campaign spends £49m to lure UK visitors

Australian tourism boost

FROM RACHEL BRIDGE IN SYDNEY

AUSTRALIA'S tourism industry is poised to launch its biggest ever marketing campaign next month in a bid to lure more British visitors.

Under the slogan "The sooner you go, the longer the memories" the A$100 million (£49.5 million) three-year campaign hopes to persuade people to take their holiday of a lifetime now rather than leaving it until they are older.

Tourism is now Australia's biggest export industry, ahead of the country's traditional exports of coal, wool and gold, and last year generated export earnings of A$12 billion, an increase of nearly 17 per cent on 1994. It accounts for almost 13 per cent of total export earnings.



Koala: Australia's old look

John Morse, general manager of the Australian Tourism Commission's marketing services division, said: "In the past two years we have found that while Australia is top of the list of places people would most like to visit, there is a big gap between that and the number of people who actually come here. What we need to do is to make Australia a more compelling destination, to make people say: 'I have to go now'." He added: "The image of Australia in the UK has become bland because of the way it is portrayed in soap operas. We are trying to give Australia a more exotic flavour."

Last year more than 350,000 British people visited Australia, an increase of 6.5 per cent on 1994 and that figure is forecast to rise to nearly 500,000 by the year 2000.



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THE TIMES CITY DIARY

The patter of tiny Cedrics

THINGS are looking up for the Cedrics of this world. Not only is Cedric Brown soon to retire from British Gas on a handsome pension, but hopes are high on Mudchute City Farm, east London, that Cedric, the 20-stone porker that featured so prominently at British Gas's last annual meeting, is pregnant.

The farm hands are so excited and have put a circle around the month of May.

GMB, the union, which has promised to look after Cedric for the rest of her life, has already chosen a host of names. However, they do seem to have an uncanny resemblance to various executives in the utilities sector.

Blooming timely

HOW appropriate that results for the year ended December 31 for the Jersey-registered Flying Flowers group are due on Wednesday — St Valentine's Day. "We chose the day quite deliberately," managing director Tim Dunningham says.

An arty meal

ERNST & YOUNG, the accountants, are taking the sponsorship of the Tate's Cézanne exhibition seriously. They have already organised that their minibuses, which connect their various offices, should be painted in images of the artist's famous pictures. Even more enticing is the Cézanne week they have organised in their canteen. Nosh will be turned over to Provençal cuisine. "We'll have to survive on Salade Cézannoise and Bouillabaisse Cézanne, though I'd prefer sausages and pommes frites," said an executive. Meanwhile, at Pret A Manger, they're serving a Cézannewich.

Graduating

CANTAB Pharmaceuticals, the immunology group of Cambridge — where else? — has appointed Sir John Collins as its new non-executive chairman and clearly does not hold his university days against him. Sir John is a former chairman and chief executive of Shell UK, is current chief executive of the Vestey group of companies, and is a non-executive director of N M Rothschild & Sons. And where did Sir John graduate with a BSc Agriculture? Reading University.

Tears in beers

BASS brewers are crying in their beer after the oldest Mulberry tree in Cardiff was blown over by high winds in the garden of one of their pubs. The 15ft tree, thought to be about 200 years old, had a preservation order on it, and now the owners of the Nine Giants pub in Llanishen are desperately looking for a new root.

Croc cocktail

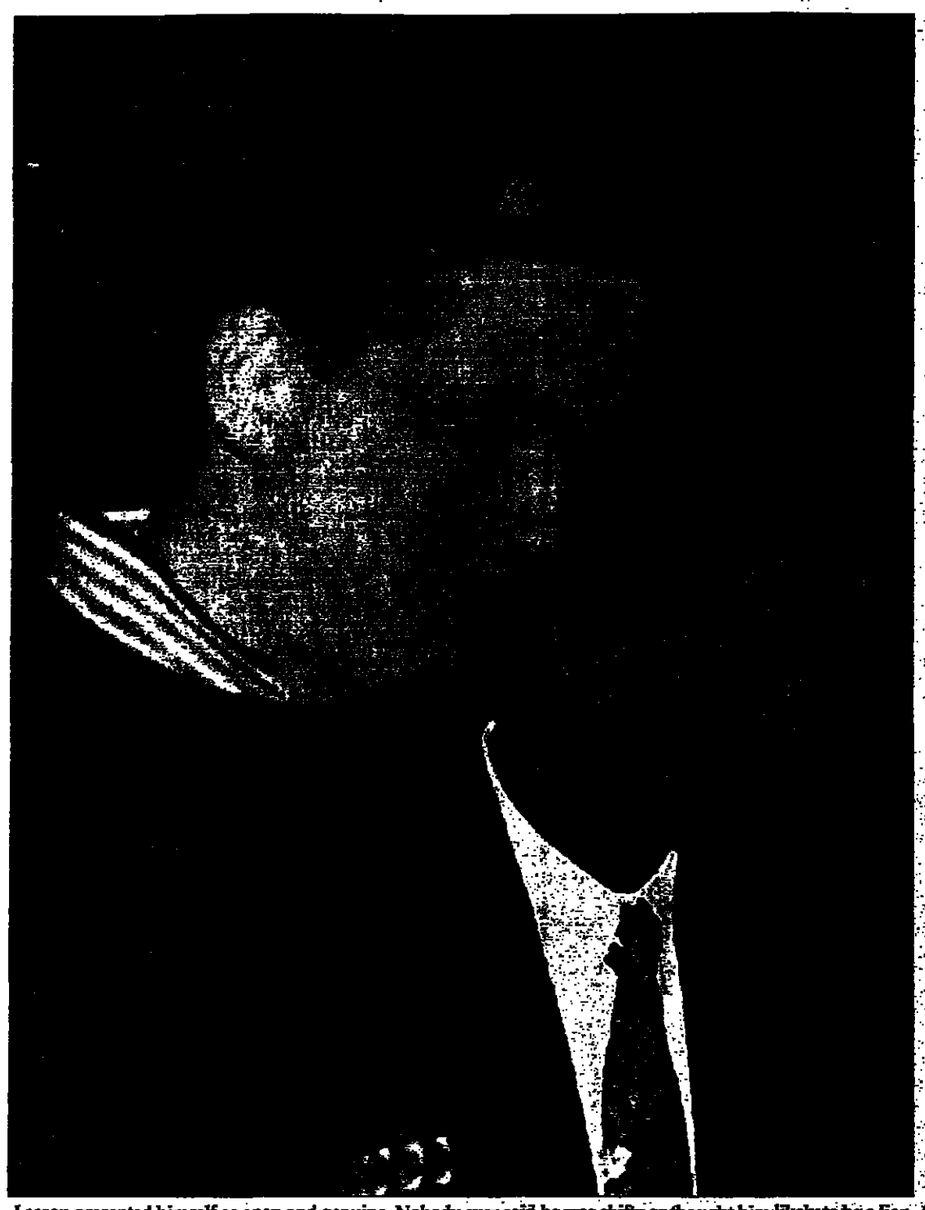
REGULARS at the Ebury Wine Bar, in Ebury Street, have a treat in store this summer. Chef Josh Hampton, fresh from New Zealand, who has already introduced City diners to the delights of kangaroo, hopes to tickle taste buds with crocodile on a bed of lettuce.

COLIN CAMPBELL

هكذا في الاصل

What turned Nick Leeson into a criminal?

Stephen Fay, in a new book, follows the route from Watford school to Singapore jail



Leeson presented himself as open and genuine. Nobody ever said he was shifty or thought him likely to be a liar

The inside track on the boy who broke the bank

The education of Nick Leeson began at Kingsway Junior Mixed School, and continued at Parmiters in the neighbouring suburb of Garston. Parmiters, once a grammar school in Bethnal Green in east London, had moved to the country and become a comprehensive school. But its grammar-school roots were still in evidence; the pupils were expected to wear a uniform, and encouraged to develop expectations. A former Governor of the Bank of Canada was an Old Parmitarian.

Leeson's O-level results were the work of a steady, if unspectacular student. At Parmiters, he showed promise as a footballer; he was a sweeper at the back; not big — about 5ft 10in — but fairly skilful. He also became a prefect. But this picture is misleading: in fact, Leeson's late adolescence and early manhood were a bitterly exacting time for him. In the classroom, he proved a disappointment. His A-level results were dismal: a C in English literature and a D in history; maths was a disaster.

Leeson did go to work in a bank, but not in the high street. Parmiters had not lost its link with the City of London when it moved to Watford. He was hired by Coutts & Co, one of the prestigious names of British banking, though by 1985, when Leeson joined, its independence was a thing of the past, and Coutts was a subsidiary of the National Westminster Bank.

Working for Coutts set Leeson apart from his hard-drinking, football-playing friends. Celebrating the 21st birthday of one of the gang rather too well in Harlow, they were put in the cells to sober up. On their release, Leeson found he was treated differently from the rest by the policeman behind the desk. With his Coutts & Co cheque book and cash card, Leeson seemed not to belong quite in that company. They were lager louts; he already had the trappings of a Yuppie.

By 1989, after gaining experience in the fast-growing Japanese market at Morgan Stanley, Leeson was working for Barings Securities.

Later, Leeson told Stephen Pollard (his lawyer in London) that, at about this time, he began to feel "schizophrenic" (his word). He spent the week in the City performing complicated tasks, and the weekend with his pals who had no idea what he did. At the weekend, it was the usual round of beer and football (birds seem to have come a distant third).

Colleagues from the early 1990s remember a young man who tended to keep himself to himself. He did not make close friends at work and when he did join colleagues for a drink, his consumption was modest: "Nick got quite giggly after a couple of pints," says Guy (John Guy, the Barings executive who first hired Leeson).

At Morgan Stanley, the environment had been highly disciplined; at Baring Securities, it was organised chaos. Problem-solving took a high priority. In 1990, a problem arose in Jakarta which required a team of four to sort out. Two were to come from Hong Kong, and two from London. Guy thought Leeson was the right man for that job, but the second person was less obvious. Guy took a risk. Despite the fact that she had only just joined Barings, he asked a lively young woman called Lisa Sims to join Leeson in Indonesia. She was the daughter of a newspaper printer, pretty and bright. They would be gone for some months.

When they got back from Indonesia, Guy noticed that Leeson was solicitous of Lisa, blushing on her behalf when she overheard dirty jokes. "She was one of the lads, but he always treated her like a lady," says Guy. They announced their engagement shortly after their return.

HIS MOTIVES

Leeson had shown ingenuity and bravado in perpetrating his fraud and carrying out his forgeries, but there was no end game: no hidden bank account that could have financed a fugitive existence. He knew that he would be found out. He told Stephen Pollard that if he had tried the same game at Morgan Stanley, he would have been exposed within two months. He might have been lucky to last that long.

At Barings, he kept the ball in play for 32 months, and, much as he longed to be caught, his prevarication delayed his final exposure by Tony Railton for one further week. Only his disappearance finally set all the alarm bells ringing.

Leeson's grand fraud had taken place in an extraordinarily fertile environment. Barings lacked the cynicism about human nature, the relentless management style, and the advanced computer systems to catch him. The Bank of England placed too much reliance on Barings' good name, and lacked the know-how of preventative regulation. SIMEX (the Singapore market) was willing to bend its rules to take business from its main competitor in Osaka.

Indeed, the management style of Barings was so inadequate that it is hard to believe that the bank could have survived much longer as an independent entity. It required new capital, but, more than that, it needed executive flair. Senior directors had told Andrew Tuckey as much before 23 February 1995.

Leeson was a fraud in the right company, in the right place, at the right time. But to argue, as John Koh (his Singapore lawyer) did, that he was not guilty because his bosses failed to stop him is a threadbare defence. Now the story has been investigated and told, the conclusion must be that, no matter how vulnerable Barings had become, Leeson was the man principally responsible for bankrupting it. He was given the opportunity — but why did he take it? What was his motive?

Money must certainly have been a motive. Leeson wanted to be a trader because traders make big money. His own career was proof of this. His 1992 bonus of £35,746 rose to £130,000 for 1993. Had he not been exposed — or had his profits been genuine — Leeson would have earned, on top of a decent salary, £450,000 for 1994. These bonuses total more than £600,000, a sum which many dedicated criminals would feel proud to get away with.

Leeson was not a great spender. His sister, Victoria, reported that "he doesn't exactly throw his money around," though whenever the family needed help, he gave it. His flat in Anguilla Road was not luxurious; relaxing at home, he liked watching football and movies on the video. He and Lisa travelled widely, but the firm often paid for that. He appears to have had no expensive habits.

But spending is not necessarily the main motive for earning. Leeson's earnings were a status symbol: they did indeed amount to "shagloads" — a great deal more than his former schoolmates at Parmiters were getting. Even so, it is hard to believe that money could have been his only motive. Popularity must have come into it, too. The Boy Scout in Leeson wanted to be liked as a good and caring colleague.

Pleasing Lisa is another plausible motive. His wife had replaced his mother as the person whose approval he sought: "She's a very strong lady," he told David Frost. When the sale of the rights to his autobiography were being discussed, one of his preoccupations was that there should be enough money for Lisa to live on, and to travel to visit him in jail. For some months, I thought she must have known about his fraud: it was the kind of secret impossible to hide from a wife. Now, I believe I was wrong. Leeson's ability to conceal the part of him that perpetuated the fraud enabled him to deceive Lisa too.

None of these partial motives fully explains the premeditated nature of Leeson's crime. His plan was conceived before Barings started to trade on SIMEX, and set in motion at the first possible opportunity. What he had learned in the settlements office and the business development group at Barings made him believe that he could pull off his great deception. After three years at Barings, Leeson seems to have decided that the odds against a speedy discovery were long enough. In no other case, ever, has an employee's scorn for his bosses proved so costly.

Class resentment? The only evidence of strong class feeling within the family comes from Victoria Leeson. After the collapse, she said: "They seem to be saying that if you're working class, you should be working as a dustman or a shop assistant. They're trying to belittle him." In the early 1990s, there was still plenty of belittling of the clerks by the toffs at Barings. Leeson may, like most Barings Securities people, have had no time for the stuffy bankers, and, as a Yuppie, he may have felt contempt for the privileged class. But Leeson aspired to membership of the moneyed class.

A therapist would also look for a motive in the dark, hidden part of Leeson's nature. The analysis might go like this: Barings would take on the attributes of a parent — feeding Leeson, training him, and nurturing him. In return for this, the "parent" expected obedience and loyalty. Leeson's resentment of this would lead him to bite the hand that fed him.

Having examined Leeson's years of deception, what strikes me most strongly is the way he was able to present himself as open and genuine. Nobody ever said he was shifty; nobody thought him likely to be a liar. When he prevaricated and dodged questions, he was always given the benefit of the doubt.

In Singapore, Leeson lived out a fantasy life. He wanted to be the big, swinging dick, a legendary money maker, like Christopher Heath — the man whose huge profits swelled the bonuses. And for 32 months he committed fraud and forgery to sustain this "golden boy" image of himself. The part of him that must have known it couldn't last was suppressed to the bitter end.

The answer to the absorbing question about motives must lie in all, or some, of these explanations. I doubt whether Leeson could give a full answer himself.

Fay's final conclusions on the Leeson fraud make uneasy reading:

Banks, especially in the City, learnt one lesson and forgot another. Barings' collapse showed that banks should either be small or big: there is no security in the middle ground. A small bank trades with clients' money, and lives off the fees it earns. Proprietary trading is a game only for big banks that have deep pockets.

When these banks take huge daily positions in foreign exchange markets, they are gambling: they cannot know whether the price is going to rise or fall. And if there is an endemic risk in derivatives markets, the great British clearing banks are taking a share of it, along with the banks and securities houses in New York, Tokyo and elsewhere. The only people who benefit from the proprietary positions taken by the big banks are the staff and the shareholders, who receive bonuses and dividends. The customer's interests come last.

Will the lessons that have been learnt prevent the recurrence of a disaster like the collapse of Barings? Consider this observation in one report of inquiry: "In part, because of the importance to the firm's business, this department appears to have insulated itself from its other departments ... In this atmosphere, as his apparent profitability increased, he himself was able to put up a front of unapproachability and secrecy when inquiries about his trading activities arose. Throughout the firm, scepticism about his activities was often dismissed or left unspoken."

This is not a comment on Barings. The subject is Joseph Jett, who, as head of Kidder Peabody's government-debt trading desk in New York, claimed a false profit of $350 million. Jett's fraud was exposed in April 1994, after he had been doing it for two years. At the time, Leeson's losses were rising fast. During the summer of 1995, Eddie George (Governor of the Bank of England) was more sanguine: as a result of the Barings collapse, he thought it was unlikely that a similar catastrophe would occur. "I'd be quite surprised to find, at any time in the next ten years, that somebody was allowed to be in charge of trading and the back office."

By coincidence, I was on the floor of SIMEX in September when news flashed up the screen above the trading floor: a Daiwa trader named Iguchi had lost $1.1 million in 30,000 unauthorised trades that had taken place in New York over 11 years. Like Leeson, Iguchi had been running both the front and the back offices, even after Leeson's fraud had made headlines around the world and shaken trading desks in every market.

Will an event like the collapse of Barings happen again? Of course it will. Somewhere, it — or something like it — is happening now.

Taking points off Henry

Battling with the Past. *Radio 4 FM, 10.00am.*

So far as their judgment on Henry VIII is concerned, quite a lot divides the four historians taking part in this history quiz. No two experts ever come to exactly the same conclusions about anything. Ultimately, however, only one point separates the teams when the MC, Ronald Hutton, tots up the scores. Actually, this competitive element is an irrelevance. You cannot award points in a contest in which there can be no definitive answers, only interpretations. These four historians do not talk like historians. "Nonsense!" one of them tells his rival, "Jane Seymour didn't have two brain cells to rub together," says another. In the same unacademical vein is the disclosure that Henry's waist measurement was 54 inches.

Composer of the Week: Irving Berlin: *Radio 3, noon.*

For Radio 3 loyalists, it used to be a jaw-dropping experience when *Composer of the Week* featured the music of a writer of popular ditties. Not any longer. The object, no doubt, has been to widen the network's appeal. But sometimes, it is just plain common sense. Irving Berlin wrote songs that, in some ways, made him the 20th century's equivalent of Schubert — an astonishing achievement considering he never had any formal musical training. Paul Guinery's five-part series about Berlin starts with his early years. His output was prodigious. Even with five hours of Radio 3 time at his disposal, can Guinery do Berlin justice?

Peter Davalle

RADIO 1

FM Stereo. 4.00am Clive Warren 6.30 Chris Evans 9.00 Simon Mayo 12.00 Lisa I'Anson, including 12.30-12.45pm Newsbeat, and at 1.15 The Net 2.00 Nicky Campbell 4.00 Dale Pearce, including at 5.30-5.45 Newsbeat 7.00 Evening Session 9.00 In Concert: Best of Britpop (1/2) 10.00 Mark Radcliffe Midnight Wendy Lloyd

RADIO 2

FM Stereo. 4.00am Alex Lester 6.00 Martin Kelner 8.15 Pause for Thought 7.30 Sarah Kennedy, Incl 9.15 Pause for Thought 9.30 Ken Bruce, Incl 10.00 Pick of the Hits 11.30 Jimmy Young 2.00pm Judi Spiers 3.30 Ed Stewart 5.05 John Dunn 7.00 Hubert Gregg 7.30 Malcolm Laycock with Dance Band Days, and at 8.00 Big Band Era 8.30 Big Band Special 9.00 Humphrey Lyttelton 10.00 Frame It! (2/6) 10.30 The Jamesons 12.06am Campbell Burnap 1.00 Steve Madden 3.00-6.00 Alex Lester

RADIO 5 LIVE

5.00am Morning Reports 6.00 The Breakfast Programme 6.55, 7.55 racing preview 8.35 The Magazine 11.30 News; Going Bananas 12.00 Midday with Mair 2.05 Ruscoe on Five, Incl at 3.05 Actuality 3.45 Entertainment News 4.00 John Inverdale Nationwide 7.00 News Extra 7.35 Great Scots! 8.00 The Monday Match: Tottenham Hotspur v West Ham 10.05 News Talk 11.00 Night Extra, Incl at 11.15 The Financial World Tonight 12.05am The Other Side of Midnight 2.05 Up All Night

TALK RADIO

6.00am Sandy Warr 7.00 Simon Bates 10.00 Jonathan King 12.00 Tommy Boyd 2.00pm Anna Raeburn 4.00 Scott Chisholm 7.00 Sean Bolger 9.00 Moz Dee 10.00 James Whale 1.00-6.00am Iain Collins

WORLD SERVICE

All times in GMT. 5.00am Newsday 5.30 Europe Today 6.00 Newsday 6.30 Europe Today 7.00 News 7.15 Off the Shelf: *Alex* 7.30 The Vintage Chart Show 8.00 World News 8.10 Words of Faith 8.15 The Greenfield Collection 9.00 News in German 9.15 Anything Goes 9.45 Sport 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 BBC English 10.45 Off the Shelf: *Alex* 11.00 Newsdesk 11.30 Omnibus 12.00 News 12.05pm World Business Report 12.15 Britain Today 12.30 Western Music 1.00 Newshour 2.00 News 2.05 Outlook 2.30 John Peel 3.00 News in German 3.15 Recital 4.00 News 4.15 The World Today 4.30 News in German 5.00 Europe Today 5.30 World Business Report 5.45 Sport 6.00 Newsdesk 6.30 News in German 7.00 News Summary 7.01 Outlook 7.25 Words of Faith 7.30 Multitrack: Hit List 8.00 Newshour 9.00 World News 9.05 World Business Report 9.15 Britain Today 9.30 Omnibus 10.00 Newsdesk 10.30 The World Today 10.45 Sport 11.00 World News 11.10 Take Five 11.15 Ed Stewart 11.45 Development 95 Midnight Newsdesk 12.30am Folk Routes 12.45 Britain Today 1.00 News 1.10 Press Review 1.15 World Ranking 1.45 Health 2.00 Newsday 2.30 Screenplay 3.00 News 3.15 Sport 3.30 John Peel 4.00 Newsdesk 4.30 Europe

CLASSIC FM

4.00am Mark Griffiths 6.00 Nick Bailey 9.00 Henry Kelly 12.00 Susannah Simons 2.00pm Concerto 3.00 Jamie Crick 6.00 Newsnight 6.30 Sonata 7.00 Ken Russell's Movie Classics (7/13) 8.00 Evening Concert 10.00 Michael Mappin 1.00am Mel Cooper

VIRGIN RADIO

6.00am Russ 'n' Jono 9.00 Richard Skinner 12.00 Graham Dene 4.00pm Nicky Horne 7.30 Paul Coyle 10.00 Mark Forrest 2.00-6.00am Robin Banks

RADIO 3

6.00am On Air, presented by Andrew McGregor. Rachmaninov (Cello Sonata in G minor); Vivaldi (Concerto in F); Tavener (Magnificat: Nunc Dimittis, Collegium Regale); Brahms (Cello Sonata in F); **8.05** Beethoven (Zur Namensfeier); Mozart (Piano Trio No 2 in E flat, Kegelstatt)

9.00 Morning Collection, with Catriona Young. Parry (Lady Radnor's Suite); Liszt (Sposalizio, Années de pèlerinage); Brahms (Violin Sonata No 3 in D minor); Kodály (Dances of Galanta)

10.00 Musical Encounters. Prokofiev (Suite, Lieutenant Kijé); **10.25** *Artist of the Week*: Nicholas Daniel, cor anglais, performs Debussy (Rapsodie); **10.40** Brossard (Qui non diligat te, Elévations et motets); Britten (Wind Sextet); Ravel (Suite, Mother Goose)

12.00 Composer of the Week: Irving Berlin. See Choice

1.00pm BBC Lunchtime Concert, live from St John's, Smith Square, London. Trula Mork, cello, Harvard Gimse, piano, perform Prokofiev (Cello Sonata in C); Strauss (Cello Sonata in F)

2.00 Schools. The Song Tree **2.15** Storybox **2.25** Let's Move **2.45** First Steps in Drama

3.00 The BBC Orchestras. BBC Philharmonic under Yan Pascal Tortelier performs Franck (Symphony in D minor) (r)

3.45 Composers. Gavin Mooney plays more than 70 works for organ at the Abbey of Saint-Michel at Thiérache in northern France

4.30 Misterioso. Ian Carr explores the year 1957 in the life of the pianist and composer Thelonious Monk (5/6)

5.00 The Music Machine: Five Working Composers. Sarah Walker visits Barrington Pheloung, who composed the theme for *Inspector Morse* (1/5)

5.15 In Tune, with Andrew Green. Chabrier (España); **6.03** Vaughan Williams (On Wenlock Edge); Mozart (Rondo in A minor)

7.30 BBC Philharmonic under George Hurst performs Beethoven (Overture, The Consecration of the House); Elgar (Variations on an Original Theme, Enigma); Brahms (Piano Concerto No 2 in B flat)

9.05 Towards Musical Democracy. Sam Richards explores how five composers balance innovation and tradition, beginning with Vaughan Williams and the folk song movement

9.30 Apt for Voyces and Viols. Rose Consort of Viols plays music by Thomas Tomkins and Orlando Gibbons, and the BBC Singers under Bo Holten sing motets and anthems by Gibbons, Tomkins and Thomas Weelkes (r)

10.45 Mixing It, with Mark Russell and Robert Sandall

11.30-12.30am Ensemble. In the first of two programmes, Audubon Quartet performs Beethoven (String Quartet in C minor); Dohnányi (String Quartet No 2 in D flat)

1.00-1.40 Night School. Letterbox **1.20** Singing Together

RADIO 4

5.55am Shipping (LW only) **6.00** News Briefing **6.10** Farming Today **6.25** Prayer for the Day **6.30** Today, Incl **6.30, 7.00, 7.30, 8.00, 8.30** News **6.55** Weather **7.25, 8.25** Sports News **7.45** Thought for the Day **7.55** Weather **8.40** Letters from Over Here. Raymond Seitz, former American Ambassador to London, concludes his series **8.58** Weather

9.00 News 9.05 Start the Week, presented by Melvyn Bragg and Tom Sutcliffe. With Baroness Warnock, Richard Leakey, Charles Wheeler and Craig Raine

10.00-10.30 News; Battling with the Past (FM only). See Choice

10.00 Daily Service (LW only) from Holy Trinity Church, Coventry

10.15 This Sceptr'd Isle (LW only)

10.30 Woman's Hour, introduced by Jenni Murray. Serial: *Cause Celeb* by Helen Fielding (3/12)

11.30 Money Box Live: 0171-580 4444. Lines open from 10am

12.00 News; You and Yours

12.25pm Counterpoint. Ned Sherrin conducts a special edition of the music quiz. With John Amis, Jeremy J. Beadle and Richard Stilgoe **12.58** Weather

1.00 The World at One

1.40 The Archers (r) **1.55** Shipping Forecast

2.00 News; An Odd Body. Third of a four-part detective series by Sue Rodwell (r)

3.00 The Afternoon Shift, with Laurie Taylor

4.00 News 4.05 Kaleidoscope. Lynne Walker reviews *Tristan and Isolde*, and *The Tempest*

4.45 Short Story: Curl Up and Dye, by Peter Lovesey. Read by John Baddeley

5.00 PM 5.50 Shipping Forecast **5.55** Weather

6.00 Six O'Clock News 6.30 Just a Minute (r)

7.00 News 7.05 The Archers

7.20 The Food Programme (r)

7.45 The Monday Play: The Fever. The American actor Wallace Shawn performs his own play about a privileged New Yorker who has a life-changing experience while he is lying ill in a beautiful but troubled land

9.15 Uncle Mort's Celtic Fringe: Crosso to Whatelsname. by Peter Tinniswood. Carter Brandon decides to take the blood-red Beetle, and his Uncle Mort, to Wales. With Stephen Thorne, Sam Kelly and Christina Rodska (1/5)

9.30 Kaleidoscope (r) **9.59** Weather

10.00 The World Tonight, with Robin Lustig

10.45 Books at Bedtime: God Stand Up for Bastards. David Leitch's autobiography (6/6)

11.00-11.30 Destinations: A Nice Place to Die (FM only). Discussions on travel themes (2/6) (r)

11.00 Education Matters (LW)

11.30-12.00 After Eden (FM only). First of a six-part drama series by Alison Leonard about a woman priest. With Christine Pritchard (r)

11.30 Today in Parliament (LW)

12.00 News, Incl 12.27am Weather

12.30 The Late Book: Reef, by Romesh Gunesekera (6/7)

12.48 Shipping Forecast **1.00 As World Service**

FREQUENCY GUIDE. RADIO 1, FM 97.6-99.8. RADIO 2, FM 88.0-90.2. RADIO 3, FM 90.2-92.4, RADIO 4, FM 92.4-94.6; LW 198; MW 198 (12.45-5.55am). CLASSIC FM, FM 100-102. VIRGIN RADIO, FM and radio listings compiled by Peter Dear, Gillian Mazay, Rosemary Smith and Susan Thomson

The bank so arrogant, it always arrived late



The Barings head office in Bishopsgate

Discretion gave way to arrogance and complacency at the heart of Barings

A distinguished member of the Baring family, who remains anonymous — he would not have spoken at all had he thought he might be identified — recalls Baring Brothers' image of itself during the banking crisis of 1974. A number of fringe banks that had lent unwisely to property speculators had failed, and the virus spread so fast that the Bank of England had to reassure the City about the soundness of even the National Westminster Bank. But at 8 Bishopsgate, Baring Brothers was untroubled. It had never been tempted to plunge into the property business. The nameless Baring places the fingers of both hands together, and smiles. "We felt we weren't clever enough," he says.

He was expressing, simultaneously, the instinctive conservatism and complacency of recent generations of Barings, their Olympian detachment and the discretion one would expect from the Queen's bankers.

All these attributes play a significant part in this story, because they help explain why it is that, while individual Barings can be delightful and intelligent company, their name stirs strong feelings, few of them sympathetic.

Picture the start of a meeting between Baring Brothers and one of its corporate clients. The clients are present, but there are no Barings. Barings always arrive late. This act of self-conscious arrogance is intended to suggest that the clients are lucky to be in their company.

It is part of the Baring inheritance, along with experience, occasional flashes of ruthlessness and an inherent sense of superiority. These qualities created a mystique about Baring Brothers, and without it the name would not have inspired the confidence it did.

When that lofty arrogance was brought low, the hefty bonuses partners were accustomed to did not cease. Fay notes, and several senior executives stayed around. The true victims were elsewhere.

Victims came from inside as well as outside the bank. Twenty-one men and women who were judged responsible for Leeson's fraud were "summarily dismissed" in July, whether or not they had "resigned" in May.

To some, this was too much to bear. On receiving the hand-delivered dismissal letter from ING, one senior manager locked himself in the lavatory and wept. Some could not stop picking obsessively over the pieces; others immersed themselves in conspiracy theories. The lives of many were blighted, and the effect on their families was profound. Leeson had made fools of them all.

But the principal victims of Leeson's fraud were the bondholders. Late in 1993, Barings had raised £100 million by issuing a perpetual loan at 9¼ per cent. Normally, perpetual loans of this kind are taken by insurance companies and pension funds, but, with interest rates beginning to fall, the Barings bond offered an unusually attractive return.

Brokers bought chunks of the loan and divided it up, selling it on to individual clients. So the creditors included people like a south London doctor, a vicar in North Wales, and a retired army officer. Many had invested part of their retirement savings. ING (the new owner) offered to pay only 5p in the pound, with the possibility of another 20p at some future time.

The Collapse of Barings, by Stephen Fay is published on February 23 by Richard Cohen Books, priced £20.

Welcome to fresh fields and pastors new

REVIEW



Lynne Truss

An important element in the genre of harmless Sunday *night* drama is the prevalence of the colour green. Think of *Trainer, The Vet, Lovejoy, Hamish Macbeth*, even *Pie in the Sky* — in every cinematic shot there's an emerald sward singing la-la-la with colour and refreshing our souls for Monday morning. Kieran Prendiville, creator of the new **Ballykissangel** (BBC1), has taken this principle to its logical conclusion. "This is where the 40 shades of green come from," said sceptical Assumpta, driving the new English priest towards the idyllic Irish village with the heavenly name. And *Forty Shades* would make a good title for the show, in a way, since the gradations of the priest's own verdancy are likely to provide key interest in the weeks ahead.

For Father Peter is green, all right. "That's beautiful," he breathes when he first sees his church. "You were made for each other," quips Assumpta. In last night's episode, he arrived in mufti (with his brutally short hair, more like an off-duty squaddie than a cleric), moved into his surprisingly well-accoutred house, and was immediately confronted with an unusual problem — a luxury confessional, donated by a pushy parishioner, and modelled on a public lavatory. Now, the question was, would Good Young Priest make a stand against Wicked Bent Businessman? Well, let's just say that like all the best heroes, he may be wet behind the ears, but he still has something between them.

I liked *Ballykissangel*. Like Kieran Prendiville's other dramatic venture, *Roughnecks*, it is formulaic yet concentrates maximum attention on the individuals, creating good material for the actors — here beautifully cast, with Stephen Tompkinson as Peter, Dervla Kirwan as Assumpta, and Tony Doyle as the lavatory importer. These three *represent faith, doubt and sin*, I suspect; so good luck to them as they thrash it out. Ballykissangel is the *sort of place* where young men still fret about mortal sin before having sex, yet by a *stroke of good fortune religious fervour* is not reflected in interior design — no tacky madonnas; no *praying hands glowing in the dark*. Father Peter's house is done out like a Cotswold cottage. Oh yes, a *little* piece of heaven fell from out the sky one day, but it wasn't in Ireland exactly.

Isn't it always the way — that you have your deepest and *longest discussions in the* wrong part of the house? Instead of sitting somewhere comfy with a *nice drink, earnest thoughts* overtake you while you stand on one leg at the bathroom door, or hunch in the car with shopping defrosting round your legs. As Ruby Wax last night shoved her way through Roseanne Barr's *luxury home*, scattering insults ("Why do I get the idea this house was decorated *an hour ago?*"), *you might* have assumed a heart-to-heart was out of the question. They visited the Doll Room ("Wow, are you nuts!") and dressed up in funny headgear from her fancy-dress cupboard.

But suddenly, standing in the dressing room — between unflattering mirrors, the crew visible in multiple reflections — they discussed Roseanne's mistakes — her "dumb" marriage; her prostitution; her eating disorders. This was after a hysterical analysis of the function of the male sex ("Yes they can have control, but only in two areas," said Roseanne, laughing. "Starting barbecues is one; the other is walking around in packs and peeing on things.") By now, she and Rube were the biggest pals — Ruby's *method of making friends being* that interesting throwback to subservient monkey behaviour *rarely observed these days* in celebrity interviews, ie, tweaking the breasts of the bigger woman, and polishing her teeth with your finger.

Ruby Wax Meets . . . (BBC1) has become unmissable. What made last night's show especially engrossing was that Roseanne Barr is nobody's patsy. Unlike Imelda Marcos or Pamela Anderson, she has an intelligence unclouded by vanity. "I know your tricks," she warned Ruby, and she meant it. At the end, she announced to camera: "I went through the fire and emerged with only a tan." She was talking about her marriage to Tom Arnold, but it applied to Ruby, too.

Returning from holiday this weekend, I found Paul Merton on Friday night doing Tony Hancock's *The Radio Ham*, and nearly decided to give it all up again. People keep insisting that in assessing **Paul Merton in Galton and Simpson's . . .** (ITV), comparisons with the lad himself are immaterial, but I don't buy that. Merton is a superbly clever improviser and a lousy actor — the inverse of Hancock's own strengths. Yes, the scripts still sparkle, and references to teddy boys can be dropped. But Merton gets laughs by the speed of his fielding. His lines don't come from thought, much less from character. His best moment concerned the famous ravaged milk-bottle top. "Don't want to get Mad Tit Disease!" he yelled — a new line, presumably written by Galton and Simpson to suit the delivery of their new star.

Last night a new *Agatha Christie's Poirot* on ITV took a bloody long time to establish the solution to **Murder on the Links**. And if I may say so, there was not half enough golf in it. Over on BBC1, Donna Franceschild's superior drama **A Mug's Game** reached three-quarter mark with great events — poisoned fish floating belly-up, a boating disaster, and Kathy's, ne'er-do-well husband leaving home with the VCR. Crushingly, Kathy (Michelle Fairley) told her besotted boss, Ken Stott, "You're very sweet", at which Stott's wonderful face sagged helplessly. When a woman says you are sweet, you know you've been kidding yourself.

BBC1

6.00am Business Breakfast (47102)
7.00 BBC Breakfast News (Ceefax) (65763)
9.00 Breakfast News Extra (Ceefax) (4085299)
9.20 Can't Cook, Won't Cook (s) (3166034)
9.45 Kilroy. Topical discussion (s) (2643378)
10.30 Good Morning (s) (35299)
12.00 News (Ceefax), and weather (6953015) **12.05pm Turnabout** (s) (9404183) **12.30 Going for a Song** (s) (73831)
1.00 One O'Clock News (Ceefax) and weather (35522) **1.30 Regional News** (Ceefax) and weather (77537980)
***1.40* Neighbours** (Ceefax) (s) (34322367)
2.00 Pebble Mill (s) (9600218)
2.40 Rich Man, Poor Man (4973893)
3.30 The Busy World of Richard Scarry (s) (7809270) **3.55 Bodger and Badger** (r) (s) (1334367) **4.10 Chipmunks Go to the Movies** (r) (s) (6819015) ***4.35 The* Genie from Down Under** (Ceefax) (s) (3513152) **5.00 Newsround** (Ceefax) (9497855) **5.10 Blue Peter** (Ceefax) (s) (1621454)
5.35 Neighbours (r) (Ceefax) (s) (649788)
6.00 News (Ceefax) and weather (299)
6.30 Regional News Magazines (251)
7.00 Noel's Telly Years. The year in question is 1979. Showjumper Lucinda Green, Jon Pertwee, Steeplejack Fred Dibnah, and Lennie Bennett, look back at 1979 (Ceefax) (s) (6611)
7.30 Watchdog. Consumer magazine (Ceefax) (763)
8.00 EastEnders. Steve is concerned for Lydia's safety and David and Carol wonder what Ricky is up to. (Ceefax) (s) (6589)
8.30 Goodnight Sweetheart. Yvonne is pushing for Gary to get a proper job; while his life in wartime London seems under threat from a returning hero (Ceefax) (s) (5096)
9.00 Nine O'Clock News (Ceefax), regional news and weather (9034)
9.30 Panorama. Is the comprehensive system failing our children? David Dimbleby chairs a studio debate (Ceefax) (330183)
10.10 FILM: Raising Cain (1992) starring John Lithgow and Lolita Davidovich. Complex, well-acted thriller about an unhinged child psychologist who *kidnaps children* for his psychologist father's dubious research. Directed by Brian De Palma (Ceefax) (s) (7452541) **N.I.: 10.10** Country Times **10.40** FILM: Raising Cain **12.10am** Film *96* **12.40-2.10** FILM: You Talkin' to Me? **WALES: 10.10** Tide-Race **11.00** FILM: Raising Cain ***12.30am*** *Film 96* ***1.00-2.45*** FILM: Mixed Company
11.40 Film 96 with Barry Norman. Includes reviews of *Jumanji* with Robin Williams; and *Othello* with Laurence Fishburne and Kenneth Branagh (155522)
12.10 FILM: Mixed Company (1974) starring Barbara Harris and Joseph Bologna. A bout of mumps makes a father-of-three sterile. However, his wife is keen to add to their family and adopts an African-American boy, then a Vietnamese girl and a Hopi Indian boy. . . . Directed by Melville Shavelson *(186771)*
1.55am Weather (6385706)

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BBC2

6.00am Open University: Reaching and Grasping (2978657) **6.25** Global Media (1500763)
7.15 See Hear Breakfast News (Ceefax and signing) (s) (8397386)
7.30 Slingray (r) (53928) **8.00 Blue Peter** (r) (Ceefax) (s) (40015) **8.30 Songs of Praise** (r) (Ceefax) (s) *(1170218)*
9.05 Daytime on Two: Techno (4075812) **9.25** Christianity (1856367) **9.40** Square One TV *(2963893)* **10.00** Playdays (5420164) **10.25** Hotch Potch House (8470812) **10.45** Look and Read (7315183) **11.05** Zig Zag (3263251) **11.25** Technology Starters (7058947) **11.40** *The Ancient Mariner* (2678299) **12.00** The English Collection (43102) **12.30pm Working Lunch** *(71473)* **1.00** The Making of the United Kingdom (22073096) **1.20** Portrait of Europe (22086560) **1.40** Storytime (34320909)
2.00 Joshua Jones (36530096) **2.10 Holiday Outings** (r) (s) (10904367)
2.15 FILM: Passport to Terror (1989) starring Lee Remick. A fact-based drama about a woman's dream cruise turning into a nightmare. Directed by Lou Antonio *(824562)* ***3.55 News*** *(Ceefax) (1951299)*
4.00 Today's the Day (s) (164) **4.30 Ready, Steady, Cook** (s) (676) **5.00 Esther** (s) (8947)
5.30 World Skiing Championships (928)
6.00 Space Precinct (Ceefax) (s) (496305)
6.45 Buck Rogers in the 25th Century (r) (501096)
7.30 CHOICE Hidden Empire: Behind the Mask (Ceefax) (s) (305)
8.00 EXTRA CHOICE Horizon: Masters of the Ionosphere (Ceefax) (s) (362015)
8.50 Trade Secrets. *Carpenters reveal the* tricks of their trade. (Ceefax) (s) (493367)



Daniel Craig and Mark Strong (9.00pm)

9.00 Our Friends in the North. It is 1974 and Geordie (Daniel Craig) is in jail, Nicky is *planning revolution from a sausage* factory while Tosker's (Mark Strong) and Mary's marriage is an empty shell. Meanwhile, time has run out for Nicky's former mentor, Donahue, but not before he offers Nicky some valuable advice (Ceefax) (s) (2720909)
10.10 The Travel Show Essential Guides. Arthur Smith cycles away from the tourist haunts of Ibiza. Plus advice on renting an *entire island (Ceefax) (s) (962893)*
10.30 Newsnight (Ceefax) (102657)
11.15 The Brains Trust. Joining *The Times*'s Mary Ann *Sieghart this week are the* scientist Lewis Wolpert, the philosopher Edward De Bono, the novelist A.S. Byatt and the theatre director Jonathan Miller (s) (847788) **WALES: 11.15** Wales 2006 — the Culture
11.55 Weather (119980)
12.00 Midnight Hour (s) (86990)
12.30am-6.00 The Learning Zone

CHOICE

Hidden Empire: Behind the Mask
BBC2, 7.30pm

The series which has offered a valuable corrective to Anglocentric accounts of the British Empire concludes by reconstructing a discreditable episode in the history of West Africa. For 1,000 years the Kingdom of Benin *(now part of Nigeria) had proudly resisted* foreign occupation. But in the 1890s Britain, determined to exploit the region's raw materials, sent in a military expedition to depose the Benin king and take control. The invasion was resisted and its leader, James Phillips, was killed. The British press reported *the treacherous massacre* of a peaceful diplomatic mission and the British Government retaliated by burning Benin's main city and looting its treasures, including ancient bronze masks. Ben Okri, the Booker prizewinning novelist, says the theft destroyed the Benin people's spirit and cultural identity.

Horizon: Masters of the Ionosphere
BBC2, 8.00pm

There is nothing new under the sun, even in the ionosphere which fills the gap between the Earth's atmosphere and outer space. Before the First World War Nikola Tesla, a Croatian-born physicist working in New York, suggested a defence system around the *United States which uncannily anticipated* President Reagan's Star Wars. Nothing came of it, nor of Tesla's notion of sending and receiving wireless signals. Marconi pipped him there. But Tesla still has an honoured place in Tim Haines's film about a century of attempts to master the ionosphere. *Many have been made by the American* military, and not without controversy. The latest is a machine in Alaska which beams electrical energy up into the ionosphere. Whether the ultimate purposes are benign or sinister is a matter of continuing concern.

Classic Ships: Lazy Days
Channel 4, 8.30pm

Pleasure craft are the latest topic as this agreeable series *launches another wallow in* boating nostalgia. We begin in late Victorian times, when the boat to be seen in was the long and slender rowing skiff, with its gold paint and velvet cushions. But this was also the age of steam, as typified by the *Alaska*, launched in 1883 and still in use. A big, noisy passenger boat, she offered a five-day trip from Kingston upon Thames to Oxford and back and heaven help the smaller boats which got in her path. Lake Windermere provided a quieter and more gracious alternative to the Thames, though by the First World War all its boats had switched from steam to petrol. The film also recalls the the pleasure boats' finest hour, when they helped to evacuate more than 300,000 *British soldiers from Dunkirk.*

Island of Dreams
Channel 4, 9.00pm

We do not hear any but it is a fair guess that the Greek island of Zakynthos has more than its share of mother-in-law jokes. The island's mothers are fiercely protective of their sons and especially if the boys marry British women. Suzy, who had a promising career and a fiancé, came *to Zakynthos* on holiday in 1982 and never went back. She fell in love with Denis, a farmer's son, married him and had two children. But she found that mother-in-law ruled the family, with herself in third or fourth place after the dog. Dia is another Briton who fell for an islander and found herself having to contend with his formidable mother. Suzy and Dia are among four real-life Shirley Valentines featured in a watchable three-part series from the team which made *Coast of Dreams*, about expats in southern Spain. Peter Waymark

HTV

6.00am GMTV (63638)
9.25 Win, Lose or Draw (s) (3141725)
9.55 Regional News (Teletext) (5430541)
10.00 *The Time . . . the Place* **(s)** (1681560)
10.35 This Morning (15549367)
12.20pm Regional News (Teletext) (6959299)
12.30 News, weather *(Teletext)* (3293034)
12.55 Shortland Street (s) (3278725)
1.25 Coronation Street (r) (Teletext) (4299454)
2.00 Home and Away (Teletext) (s) (57824454)
***2.25* Chain Letters** (Teletext) (s) (57843589)
2.50 Simply Delicious with Family and Friends (3630812)
3.20 News headlines *(Teletext) (2960831)*
3.25 Regional News (Teletext) (2969102)
3.30 Rainbow Days (s) (1359676) **3.40 Tots TV** (s) (3387386) **3.50 Disney's Goofy** (3356270) **4.00 Scooby Doo** (5576270) **4.15 Harry's Mad** (Teletext) (s) (996367) **4.45 Art Attack** (Teletext) (s) (9818544)
5.10 The List (8384270)
5.40 News and weather (Teletext) (547251)
6.00 Home and Away. A *mysterious* American girl arrives in town (r) (Teletext) (s) (163283)
6.25 HTV News (Teletext) (120034)
6.45 Sportsweek (Teletext) (610396)
7.00 Talking Telephone Numbers. Game show with the big money prize (s) (2909)
7.30 Coronation Street. (Teletext) (831)
8.00 World in Action: Strange Customs. A look at how members of the public are helping Customs in its war against drugs. (Teletext) (s) (1657)
8.30 The Paranormal World of Paul McKenna. The world of dowsers and psychics (Teletext) (s) (1544)



Adam Levy as Sam Kline (9.00pm)

9.00 Call Red. Kline is faced with a moral *dilemma after witnessing the death of a* drug dealer (Teletext) (s) (2473)
10.00 News at Ten and weather (Teletext) (48657)
10.30 Regional News (769589)
10.40 Band of Gold. In the last of the series about a group of women who have been working as prostitutes, Rose returns to Bradford with new skills for Joyce's business venture, while Carol's fears prove to be justified (r) (Teletext) (s) (395270)
11.40 Tales from the Crypt (145522)
12.10 Bushell on the Box (s) (6869936)
12.40 Football Extra (5737049)
1.25 Customs Classified (5204597)
2.10 Music Box Profile (7406226)
2.30 International Athletics (r) (257503)
4.20 The Time . . . the Place (r) (s) (1504752)
5.00 An Invitation to Remember (r) (54400)
5.30 Morning News (36495)

HTV WALES

As HTV WEST except:
5.10pm-5.40 Ready Money (8384270)
6.25-7.00 Wales Tonight (285386)

WESTCOUNTRY

As HTV West except:
12.55 Coronation Street (3278725)
1.25-1.55 Chain Letters (84677299)
1.55 Home and Away (78064580)
2.25 Gardeners' Diary (57843589)
2.50-3.20 High Road (3630812)
5.10-5.40 Home and Away (8384270)
6.00-7.00 Westcountry Live (83218)

CENTRAL

As HTV West except:
12.55 Home and Away (3278725)
1.25 Chain Letters (84677299)
1.55 A Country Practice (34329270)
2.20-3.20 Blue Heelers (1169270)
5.10-5.40 Shortland Street (8384270)
6.25-7.00 Central News (285386)
11.40 World Championship Boxing (145522)
1.25am Bushell on the Box (7362481)
2.40 Film: Emergency Call (4982706)
4.10 Jobfinder (3349684)

MERIDIAN

As HTV West except:
12.55pm Chain Letters (3278725)
1.25 Home and Away (84677299)
1.55 A Country Practice (78064580)
2.25-3.20 Blue Heelers (9128909)
5.10 Home and Away (8384270)
6.00 Meridian Tonight (367)
6.30-7.00 Country Ways (947)

SCOTTISH

Starts: 6.35 Think Tank (5054893)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58473)
9.00 Fifteen to One (58034)
9.30 Schools: Geography (6571675) **9.45 Pienestri** (5026580) **10.00 Sang Di Fang** (8462893) **10.15 Learn Sign Language** (3651305) **10.20 Place and People** (8473909) **10.40 English** (9984386) **11.05 Encyclopaedia Galactica** (3547251) **11.15 The Mix** (7047831) **11.30 Penawdau** (2674831) **11.45 Technology** (2679386)
12.00 Right to Reply (38270)
12.30pm Camberwick Green (66541)
1.00 Slot Melthrin (4218589)
1.35 Film: This Is My Affair (3992367)
3.25 Terrytoons (2967744)
3.30 Wired World (725)
4.00 Backdate (580)
4.30 Gardens Without Borders (744)
5.00-5.30 5 Pump: Rownd a Rownd (5354454) **5.15 Ffeil** (2447170) **5.25 Tochabant** (7816473)
5.30 Countdown (116)
6.00 Newyddion (483015)
6.15 Heno (994522)
7.00 Pobol Y Cwm (305183)
7.25 Y Byd Ar Bedwar **(563096)**
8.00 Hafod Henri (9299)
8.30 Newyddion (1034)
9.00 Auf Wiedersehen Pet **(8265)**
10.00 Sgorio (2930819)
11.05 Roseanne (116473)
11.35 NYPD Blue (436386)
12.30am Meat Loaf (73110)

CHANNEL 4

6.35am Think Tank with Mickey Hutton (r) (Teletext) (s) (5054893)
7.00 The Big Breakfast (58473)
9.00 Fifteen to One (r) (Teletext) (s) (58034)
9.30 Schools: Geography (65716750 **9.45** Book Box (5026580) **10.00** Stage Two Science (8462893) **10.15** Learn Sign *Language* (3651305) ***10.20*** *Place and* People (8473909) **10.40** The English Programme (9984386) **11.05** Encyclopedia Galactica (3547251) **11.15** The Mix (7047831) **11.30** Rat-a-Tat-Tat (2674831) **11.45** Living with Technology (2679386)
12.00 Right to Reply (r) (Teletext) (s) (38270)
12.30pm Sesame Street (s) (57096) **1.30 Wowser** (51414201) **1.55 The Man Who Stole Dreams** (86263893)
2.05 FILM: Nobody Lives Forever (1946, b/w). Romantic thriller. John Garfield, a former GI and gambler, is persuaded to romance and relieve widow Geraldine Fitzgerald of her fortune. Directed by Jean Negulesco (Teletext) (257270)
4.00 Backdate. Quiz (Teletext) (s) (580)
4.30 Countdown. (Teletext) (s) (744)
5.00 Love in the Afternoon. Romantic magazine with Antoine de Caunes (Teletext) (s) (2522)
6.00 The Cosby Show (r) (Teletext) (909)
6.30 Hollyoaks (Teletext) (s) (589)
7.00 Channel 4 News (Teletext) (303541)
7.55 The Slot. Video soapbox (620164)
8.00 Screaming: *Reels investigates the* controversy surrounding the cormorant, whose growing population is, according to anglers, depleting fish stocks. A fishery owner, a representative from the RSPB and a spokesman for the Salmon and Trout Authority join the debate (Teletext) (s) (9299)
8.30 [redacted] Classic Ships: Lazy Days (Teletext) (s) (1034)



Suzy met Denis on Zakynthos (9.00pm)

9.00 [redacted] Island of Dreams (Teletext) (s) (8265)
10.00 FILM: Days of Heaven (1978). Love triangle drama with Richard Gere, set in the American Midwest. Directed by Terrence Malick (Teletext) (s) (364265)
11.45 The Sexual Imperative: The Young Ones. Is becoming a responsible young adult down to instinct, or do we have to glean much from our parents' careful *guidance (r) (Teletext) (s) (242218)*
12.45am FILM: Moss Rose (1947, b/w). Murder mystery set in London at the turn of the century. Peggy Cummins is a chorus girl who sees her involvement with a wealthy admirer, Victor Mature, as a way to fulfil her dreams of escaping her lower-class roots. But soon she begins to suspect that the man is guilty of murder. Directed by Gregory Ratoff (552226)
2.15 The Other Americas: New World, New Order. Tonight's film focuses on Argentina (r) (s) (686077). Ends at **3.15**

SATELLITE

● **For more comprehensive listings of satellite and cable channels, see the Vision supplement, published Saturday**

SKY ONE

7.00am Bonkers (3352939) ***8.50*** *Love* Connection (6081305) **9.20** Court TV (4265541) **9.50** Oprah Winfrey (4960947) **10.40** Jeopardy! (1630299) **11.10** Sally Jessy Raphael (6308015) **12.00** Beverly Geraldo (75676) **3.00** Court Tv (4386) **3.30** Oprah Winfrey (6481589) **4.15** Undun (2146522) **5.00** Star Trek: The Next Generation (5539) **6.00** The Simpsons (5589) **6.30** Jeopardy! (9541) **7.00** LAPD (6367) **7.30** M*A*S*H (5725) **8.00** Central Park West (51657) **9.00** Police Rescue (31893) ***10.00*** *Star Trek: The Next Generation* (34980) **11.00** Law and Order (90473) **12.00** Late Show with David Letterman (2916787) **12.45am** The Untouchables (5226665) **1.30** Sibs (95868) **2.00** Hit Mix Long Play

SKY NEWS

News on the hour.
6.00am Sunrise (3801305) **9.30** The Book Show (5411980) **10.10** CBS 60 Minutes (6420947) **11.00** World News and Business (915270) **1.30pm** CBS News This Morning (31183) **2.30** Parliament Live (52305) **3.30** Parliament Live **4.00** News and Business (38218) **5.00** Live at Five (45675) **6.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton (37096) **7.30** Sportsline (671015) **8.10** *60 Minutes* (997725) **11.30** CBS News (32675) **12.30am** ABC News (31918) **1.30** Tonight with Adam Boulton Replay (8754023) **2.10** *60 Minutes* (8232666) **3.30** Parliament Replay (54955) **4.30** CBS News (32690) **5.30-6.00** ABC News (66313)

SKY MOVIES

6.00am I Remember Mama (1948) (3354454) **8.15 Joy of Living** (1938) (13121725) **10.00 Sherwood's Travels** (1994) (20763) **12.00 Butch and Sundance: The Early Days** (1979) (49251) **2.00pm The Pirate Movie** (1982) (58560) **4.00 Clarence, the Cross-eyed Lion** (1965) (3270) **6.00 Sherwood's Travels** (1994) (93893) **7.30 Eddie Murphy and Cast on Beverly Hills Cop 3** (7913) **8.00 Cult Rescue** (1994) (40541) **10.00 Bram Stoker's Dracula** (1992) (24371706) **12.10am The Saint of Fort Washington** (1993) (885666) **1.55 The King's Whore** (1990) (5008955) **3.25-5.25 Based on an Untrue Story** (1993) (5064966)

SKY MOVIES GOLD

4.00pm On the Town (1949) (2102) **6.00 Thunder Bay** (1953) (27638) **8.00 Big Jim McLain** (1952) (22183) ***10.00 Oh! What a Lovely War*** **(1969)** (71867015) **12.25am The Shining** (1980) (5329366) **2.25-4.10am The Sheep Has Five Legs** (1954) (180232)

THE MOVIE CHANNEL

6.00am Hurricane Smith (1992) (70102) ***8.00 Robotic The Movie*** **(1993)** (57270) **10.00 Little Boy Lost** (1953) (28305) **12.00 What's Eating Gilbert Grape?** (1994) (47893) **2.00pm Final Days of Butch and Sundance** (1993) (5519021) **4.00 Robotic The Movie** (1993) (1812) **6.00 What's Eating Gilbert Grape?** (1994) (43638) **8.00 Greedy** (1994) (48183) **10.00 Pentathlon** (1993) (892831) **11.45 Passion Fish** (1992) (32271102) ***2.05am*** **Slamdance** (1987) (3471110) **3.45-6.00 Little Boy Lost** (1953) (17592787)

THE DISNEY CHANNEL

Sky Movies Gold takes over from 10pm to 4am.
6.00am Under the Umbrella Tree (8288725) **6.30** Fraggle Rock (4170129) **7.00** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (8470314) **7.30** Ducktales (8022611) **8.00** Chip 'n' Dale Rescue Rangers (1511084) **8.30** Adventures in Wonderland (1511981) **9.00** Walt Disney Presents (62897473) **10.00** Under the Umbrella Tree (41785251) **10.30** Fraggle Rock (15139576) **11.00** Muppet Babies (88324632) **11.30** Pooh Corner (68325367) ***12.00*** *Quack Attack* (15120939) **12.30pm** Dumbo's Circus (40013454) **1.00** Adventures in Wonderland (66820655) **1.30** FILM: Kids of the Round Table *(91073024)* **3.00** *Return of* Dinosaurs (77117551) **3.30** New Adventures of Winnie the Pooh (68390744) **4.00** Quack Attack (68379251) **4.30** Ducktales (85306763) ***5.00*** *Chip 'n' Dale (99183706)* **5.30** Danger Bay (68399015) **6.00** Tarzan (68399929) **6.30** Dinosaurs (68370965) **7.00** Boy Meets World (12593562) **7.30-10.00** FILM *Flower Drum Song* (79309870)

EUROSPORT

7.30am Judo (53134) **8.30** Athletics (269281) **9.30** International Motorsport (972351) **10.30** Live Alpine Skiing (19299; **12.00** Boxing (51522) **1.00pm** Ski Jumping (602701) **2.00** Biathlon (16218) **3.00** Alpine Skiing (59725) **4.00** Swimming (61560) **5.00** *Live Athletics (81305)* **6.30** Football (4993) **7.00** Speedworld (34831) **8.00** Alpine Skiing (67744) **8.30** Pro Wrestling (502251) **10.00** Football (981103) **11.00** Eurogol Magazine (30015) **12.00-12.30am** Alpine Skiing (99464)

SKY SPORTS

7.00am World Sport Special (36299) **7.30** Racing News (48034) **8.00** Speed and Beauty (57218) **8.30** Powerboat World (565859) **9.00** Aerobics (30641) **9.30** Cricket World Cup (25611) **11.30** Max Out (53541) **12.00** Aerobics (50305) **12.30pm** Football Special (525821) **3.30** Golf USA (10015) **5.30** Snowboard Tour (1560) **6.00** Sports Centre (8473) **6.30** Tartan Extra (97251) **7.00** *Monday Night Football (92352078)* **10.15** Sports Centre (8437251) **10.45** Tartan Extra (442096) **11.15** Bushido (831251) **12.15am** Monday Night Football (221619) **2.15-2.45** Sports Centre (719139)

SKY SPORTS GOLD

10.00pm Golden Gers (9605812) **10.30** Bobby Charlton's Football Scrapbook (1695034) **12.00-1.00am** Golf — Open Championship 1982 (9326797)

THE CHRISTIAN CHANNEL

4.00am Living Word **5.00** Kenneth Copeland **5.30** Kids TV **6.45** Entertainment **6.15** Uli Ehman **6.45-7.00** Music Television

SKY SOAP

7.00am Guiding Light (5217102) **7.55** As the World Turns (3469015) **8.50** Peyton Place (9811586) **9.20** Days of Our Lives (9139096) **10.10-11.00** Another World (5491218)

SKY TRAVEL

11.00am Globetrotter (2190454) **11.30** Ghost Towns of the Old West (5566725) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet Cooks Italian (3135283) **1.00** Around the World (3519347) **1.30** Travel Guide (4578724) **2.00** Treasures (6751725) **2.30** On Top of the World (1310831) **3.00** Getaway (6763560) **3.30-4.00** Hot Down Under (1322676)

THE HISTORY CHANNEL

4.00pm The Lincoln Assassination (6774578) **6.00-7.00** Biography (2572544)



Michael Redgrave and Laurence Olivier (Sky Movies Gold, 10.00pm)

THE SCI-FI CHANNEL

7.00pm Mysteries (6755541) **7.30** Ray Bradbury (1368396) **8.00-10.00** FILM: Invaders from Mars (8873725) **1.00am** Mustangs (1515435) **1.30** Ray Bradbury (3182481) **2.00-4.00** FILM: Frankenstein and the Monster from Hell (9943961)

TLC

9.00am True Romance (1811947) **9.30** Gardeners' Diary (4289657) **10.00** Two's Company (8254270) **10.30** Our House (1920231) **11.00** Painted House (5457299) **11.30** Running Rapids (5458928) **12.00** Julia Child (1891182) **12.30pm** Frugal Gourmet (4283473) **1.00** Yan Can Cook (4783533) **1.30** Lost Heroes (4282744) ***2.00*** *Dogs (1655454)* **2.30** *Secret Gardens* (1607539) **3.00** Two's Country (1674589) **3.30-4.00** This Old House (1602034)

UK GOLD

7.05am Angels (4366812) **7.30** Neighbours (2839152) **8.00** Sons and Daughters (1890454) **8.30** EastEnders (1899725) **9.00** The Bill (1813305) **9.30** The Sullivans (4218015) **10.00** Secret Army (6439116) **11.00** Juliet Bravo (6534760) **12.00** Sons and Daughters (1393541) **12.30pm** Neighbours (4285831) **1.00** EastEnders (8439396) **1.30** The Bill (4284102) **2.00** The Sullivans (1657812) **2.30** Get Some In! (1609947) **3.00** Angels (1676947) **3.30** Eldorado (1671164) **4.00** Casualty (45357367) **5.05** Larry Grayson's Generation Game (83857015) **6.15** Kenny's Comic Cuts (4627676) **6.25** EastEnders (7452251) **7.00** Eldorado (1688928) **7.30** And Mother Makes Five (1680812) **8.00** Get Some In! (1677876) **8.30** Alas Smith and Jones (1656183) **9.00** Casualty (6236947) **10.00** The Bill (4057183) **10.35** The Best of Top of the Pops (3883299) **11.20** Widows (5504454) **12.20am** FILM: Madeleine (7785792) **2.18-3.00** Shopping at Night

TCC

6.00am Swan's Crossing (87270) **6.30** Pugwall (80742) **7.00** Ready or Not (44589) **7.30** California Dreams (23096) **8.00** Sweet Valley High (79454) **8.30** Tiny TCC (24523990) **12.35pm** Tiny TCC (45480947) **2.30** Happily Ever After (1102) **3.00** Sons the Hedgehog (4560) **3.30** Oscar's Orchestra (3947) **4.00** California Dreams (2454) **4.30-5.00** Sweet Valley High (8638)

NICKELODEON

6.00am Banana Sandwich (34676) **7.00** Attack of the Killer Tomatoes (27541) **7.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (46576) **8.00** Wishbone (48580) **8.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (47831) **9.00** Grimmy (38183) **9.30** Clarissa (74473) **10.00** Rugrats (10763) **10.30** Real *Monsters (34367)* ***11.00*** *Rocko (50454)* **11.30** Doug (51183) **12.00** Sister Sister (58947) **12.30pm** Peter & Pete (95589) **1.00** Capital Critters (28812) **1.30** The Littlest Pet Shop (77960) **2.00** Wishbone (6909) **2.30** Rude Dog & the Dweebs (5386) **3.00** Count Duckula (8744) **3.30** Mighty Max (4201) **4.00** Rugrats (6838) **4.30** The Crypkeeper (55223) **5.00** Sister Sister (7778) **5.30** Mirror *Mirror* (9102) **6.00** Ren and Stimpy (6015) **6.30-7.00** Are You Afraid? (7367)

DISCOVERY

4.00pm Bush Tucker Man (1681541) **4.30** Paramedics (1687725) **5.00** Classic Wheels (1656541) **6.00** Terra X (1606218) **6.30** Beyond 2000 (9110367) **7.30** World of *Strange Powers (1688454)* **8.00** *Invention* (1675218) **8.30** Wonders of Weather (1654725) **9.00** On the Road Again (6234589) **10.00** Classic Wheels (6237676) **11.00** Diving Passions (5432980) **11.30-12.00** Top Marques (8250454)

BRAVO

12.00 FILM: Top Secret (9281560) **2.00am** The Saint (8259725) **3.00** The Buccaneers (1661015) **3.30** Wilma Tell (1699580) **4.00** FILM: The Belles of St Trinian's (1665831) **6.00** Robin Hood (1695744) **6.30** The Time Tunnel (9107883) **7.30** Green Hornet (1652781) **8.00** The Saint (6201251) **9.00** Starsky and Hutch (6221015) **10.00-12.00** FILM: American Gothic (5448541)

PARAMOUNT

7.00am Benson (8025) **7.30** Family Ties (8251) **8.00** Entertainment Tonight (9473) **8.30** Wings (24305) **9.00** Laverne & Shirley (65725) **10.00** Entertainment Tonight (59676) **10.30** The Vacant Lot (35086) **11.00** Kids in the Hall (75769) **11.30** Saturday Night Live (48541) **12.30pm** The Odd Couple (54481) **1.00** Wings (95348) **1.30** Soap (38226) **2.00** Laverne & Shirley (33139) **2.30** Entertainment Tonight (19374) ***3.00*** *The Vacant Lot (44464)* **3.30-4.00** Kids in the Hall (36326)

UK LIVING

6.00am Agony Hour (7717763) **7.00** Kilroy (7802299) **8.00** Esther (8145675) **8.30** Signs of the Times (7595116) **9.00** The Victorian Kitchen (7927027) **9.35** *Kate and* Allie (2854367) **10.05** The Jerry Springer Show (8036522) **11.00** The Young and the Restless (8126251) **11.55** Brookside (7601541) **12.30pm** Dangerous Women (6864137) **1.25** Crosswits (6659218) **2.00** *Agony Hour (5052839)* ***3.00*** *Live at Three* (7374454) **4.00** Infatuation UK (9958909) **4.30** Crosswits (8903589) **5.05** Lingo (6888463) **5.30** Lucky Ladders (9861473) **6.00** Beechgrove (9936388) **6.30** Brookside (6039831) **7.05** Food and Drink (6254929) **7.40** The Joker's Wild (9562228) **8.05** Young and Restless (1501367) **9.00** FILM: Women of Valor (2103145) **10.55** Entertainment Now! (5598909) **11.00** Sylvania Waters (7394218) **11.30-12.00** Sex Life (4507544)

FAMILY CHANNEL

5.00pm Black Beauty (8305) **5.30** Tintin (287367) **5.55** Batman (853676) **6.30** Catchphrase (3183) **7.00** Trivial Pursuit (8541) **7.30** *The Fall Guy (14367)* ***8.30*** *Only When I Laugh* (1096) **9.00** Stay Lucky (44305) **10.00** Treasure Hunt (14164

هكذا في الرحيل

GRAHAM SEARJEANT 41
TIMES HAVE CHANGED IF HANSON CAN DO NO RIGHT

BUSINESS

THE WEEK AHEAD 40
OIL GIANTS TO UNVEIL THEIR FULL-YEAR FIGURES

MONDAY FEBRUARY 12 1996

BUSINESS EDITOR LINDSAY COOK

Britain claims European lead in job creation

By Philip Bassett, industrial editor

THE Government will claim success today for Britain's economic and labour market performance when it unveils detailed figures showing the UK's strong pattern of unemployment reduction and job creation sharply outperforming its principal competitor countries.

The figures will be used to stiffen the Tories' resolve to oppose the more regulated work patterns common on the Continent and being threatened by Brussels through the social chapter. Ministers expect that new statistics on the number of people out of work and claiming benefit to be published this week will show a further fall in unemployment, with City and Whitehall forecasts suggesting unemployment fell 10,000 in January to just over 2.2 million.

Before that, Gillian Shephard, the Education and Employment Secretary, will today set out in detail Britain's recent jobs performance against that of other European countries and will claim that it demonstrates the value to the British economy of the Government's decision to promote a flexible labour market.

She is expected to publish new work carried out by the Department for Education and Employment looking at unemployment rates and records of job growth in France, Germany, Spain and Britain. She will conclude that on both counts, Britain's flexible labour market is outperforming the more regulated job markets in such competitor countries.

The Institute of Directors calls today for a "radical rethink" of Europe's social policies and contrasts the job performance of Europe generally against the much higher levels of job creation in the heavily-deregulated labour market in America. The international comparisons, such as Mrs Shephard's employment indicators, are expected to be used by the Government in this year's competitiveness White Paper.

Ministers are also close to announcing detailed plans to give new opportunities for work experience to 14-16-year-old schoolchildren. They are determined to ride out what they see as wholly misplaced criticism of the original proposals, which appeared when they first emerged last year.

But the Government will run into difficulties on jobs this week when Dr Tim Holt, its chief statistician, is expected tomorrow to reveal details of a new internal Whitehall report on the Government's unemployment figures. The report, revealed by *The Times* last week, is expected to recommend adopting a new monthly measure of unemployment in addition to the normal claimant count.

Though Dr Holt, head of the Central Statistical Office, will be pressed by MPs when he appears tomorrow before the Commons' Employment Select Committee, full details are not planned to be published until Thursday — publication day of the Scott report into the arms-to-Iraq affair.

Meanwhile, The TUC says today that close to 200,000 people in Britain who receive redundancy payments when they become unemployed will be together £90 million worse off under the first year of JSA through loss of benefits.

☐ Unemployment will continue to fall for the next two years and be below two million by 1998, an economic report by the Chartered Institute of Marketing forecasts today. It says continuing economic growth means there is a good chance of much lower levels of recorded unemployment than at any time for 20 years.

Leading article, page

Farnell deal faces City opposition

By Martin Waller

THE £1.8 billion megadeal in the US proposed by Farnell Electronics, the Yorkshire distribution group, faces a rocky passage at this Thursday's extraordinary meeting, with a significant block of City shareholders pledged to oppose it.

So far, institutions speaking for as much as 12 per cent of Farnell's share capital are expected to vote against the purchase of Premier Industrial Corporation. The Prudential, with almost 6 per cent, said it would decide today, but is thought to be in the opposition camp.

The deal needs a majority of 75 per cent of those voting. Farnell's last annual meeting saw a 55 per cent poll. A repetition of this would allow the deal to proceed as long as not too many other institutions side with the opposition.

Farnell has, however, written to shareholders repeating the view that the acquisition of Premier and the accompanying rights issue are in their best interests. Three of the company's four largest shareholders, holding between them 24 per cent of the votes, are supportive, the company said. The fourth is the Prudential.

Leading the opposition to the Premier deal is Standard Life, the Scottish institution with 2 per cent of Farnell. Graham Wood, head of UK equities, said he had supported the rights issue despite existing doubts over the huge premium being paid and the dilution of earnings that the purchase of Premier entailed.

The institution had last month planned to sell some of its Farnell shares, but was unable to do so when informed of the US purchase.



Elizabeth Forsyth will stand trial on two counts of handling stolen goods

Forsyth trial presents SFO with new challenge

By Jon Ashworth

THE Serious Fraud Office, still reeling from the unsuccessful prosecution of Kevin and Ian Maxwell last month, is facing a fresh challenge from another high-profile fraud case starting this week.

The jury in the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, former adviser to Asil Nadir, is due to be selected at the Old Bailey today. The trial is expected to start tomorrow and should last between four and six weeks.

Mrs Forsyth, 59, of Great Dunmow, Essex, was formerly chairman of South Audley Management, a management company which looked after the Nadir family's tax and property affairs.

She returned voluntarily to the UK from northern Cyprus in September 1994 to face questioning by the Serious Fraud Office. She was sent for trial in February 1995.

Shares in Polly Peck, Mr Nadir's fruits to electronics empire, were suspended at 108p in September 1990, the day after a raid by the SFO on the offices of South Audley Management. Receivers were appointed the following month.

Mrs Forsyth denies two counts of handling stolen goods under the Theft Act 1968. In count one, it is alleged, that, on a day between October 16 and October 20, 1989, she dishonestly undertook or assisted in the retention, removal, disposal or realisation of certain stolen goods, namely a chose in action represented by a credit of £307,000 remaining after the payment by her of £310,000 in cash at Handelsfinanzbank, Geneva, by or for the benefit of another, or dishonestly arranged so to do, knowing or believing the same to be stolen goods.

The second count involves the same charge, but it relates to £88,050 in cash.

Leeson fraud led to £80m in bonuses to Barings staff

16

By Martin Waller

A TOTAL of £80 million was paid out in bonuses to staff at Barings Bank based entirely on the illusory profits that were claimed by Nick Leeson, the convicted fraudster, according to a new book on the collapse of the bank to be published next week.

In *The Collapse of Barings*, Stephen Fay, the financial writer, calculates for the first time the benefit to Barings executives of Leeson's fraud, in the form of staggering and controversial bonus payments.

Mr Fay says that ING, the Dutch bank that bought Barings a year ago, paid out between £90 and £95 million in bonuses for 1994, the year of the collapse, although Barings executives directly implicated in the Leeson affair received no bonus at all.

These payments were based on reported profits before tax of £205 million, including the phoney "profits" booked by Leeson in Singapore. When the Bank of England worked out the real figure, it was £19.8 million, less than a tenth of the total already announced.

This would have given rise, says Mr Fay, to a pool of cash for the payment of bonuses of just £9.9 million.

"The £80 million difference can be interpreted in two ways," the book concludes. "Either it was the bribe ING had to pay the people it wanted to keep at Barings, or it was the Nicholas Leeson Memorial Fund: an unearned, undeserved £80 million bonanza acquired by one man's fraud, forgery and deception.

"Had there been any real gentlemen left at Barings, they would have donated their bonus to the bondholders (the mainly private individuals who lost millions from the bank's collapse). But there weren't," Mr Fay concludes.

The book is the first published by an outsider into the Barings disaster and the subsequent sentencing of Nick Leeson to a six-and-a-half-year jail term by a Singapore court. It considers the rise of a humble comprehensive school boy who became a household name worldwide for fraud.

Mr Fay also looks at the culture within the aristocratic bank that allowed such fraud to be perpetrated and one employee to wreak such havoc. Excerpts from *The Collapse of Barings* appear exclusively in *The Times* today.

"The picture of Nick Leeson in custody, with a rueful smile and wearing a baseball cap back to front, will become one of the enduring images of the 1990s," Mr Fay concludes.

The Collapse of Barings — and the aftermath, Page 42

Gas split will hit taxman

By Carl Mortished

FUTURE British governments stand to lose huge potential tax revenues from the spin-off of the British Gas (BG) trading arm into a separate quoted company.

The transfer of Morecambe Bay, BG's largest gasfield, into British Gas Energy (BGE) should lead to a sharp fall in the price of the take-or-pay contract on South Morecambe and a reduction of up to £1 billion in petroleum revenue tax and royalties.

Gas from South Morecambe is currently sold to BG's trading business under a take-or-pay contract with BG's exploration arm at a price believed to be 26-27p per therm, well above the market rate of about 15p per therm for long-term gas supplies.

BGB is expected to lower the price of Morecambe gas in a bid to persuade other gas suppliers to renegotiate similarly high-priced take-or-pay contracts, which could threaten the new company's survival.

"If we are negotiating with other producers, I am sure the discussions will include the price of the take-or pay contract on Morecambe," said a British Gas spokesman.

Warren prepares to slug it out with DTI

By Jon Ashworth

FRANK WARREN, the boxing promoter, is due at the High Court today to fight attempts by the Department of Trade and Industry to have him banned from serving as a company director. Mr Warren, 43, will strongly contest proceedings brought against him under the Company Directors Disqualification Act. The hearing is expected to last three weeks.

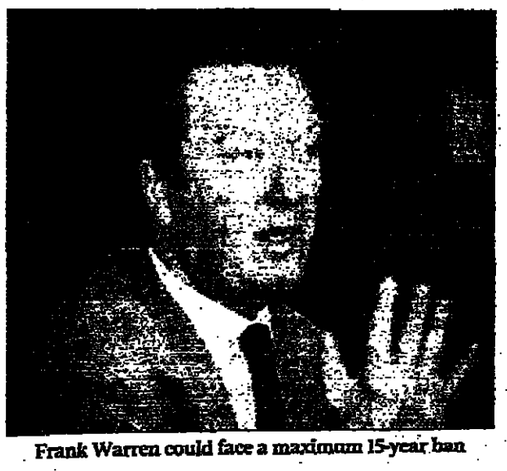
The proceedings are linked to the collapse of the London Arena, the Docklands sports and entertainment complex that failed in 1991 with debts of more than £20 million. It reopened under new ownership in 1994. Mr Warren personally lost more than £3 million in the collapse. He had guaranteed various debts but saw off the threat of personal bankruptcy.

The action by the DTI came to light last month. Mr Warren's solicitor, Park Nelson Thompson Quarrell, issued a statement, saying that the proceedings related to the affairs of various companies before 1991. Mr Warren's current business interests are not affected. The statement said: "Mr Warren has defended the proceedings vigorously and filed lengthy affidavits explaining his efforts to protect the interest of all creditors, employees and shareholders.

"This is not the case of an irresponsible director jeopardising the funds of creditors and not suffering a loss himself, but of a director with a very substantial personal financial commitment who worked extremely hard to protect the interests of all creditors and that investment."

The case against Mr Warren moved to the courts in November 1995, but proceedings were adjourned after previously undiscovered documents came to light. Mr Warren, who says he is being taken to court on a "technicality", faces a maximum ban of 15 years if the proceedings prove successful. Only 24 people have received 15-year bans since the Directors Disqualification Act came into effect in 1986.

The London Arena hosted big names from Pavarotti to Duran Duran, but eventually collapsed under the weight of its debts. Creditors included Landhurst Leasing, the controversial loan company that used the names of Damon Hill and other sporting celebrities to secure millions of pounds in loans. Landhurst collapsed in 1992 with debts of £121 million.



Frank Warren could face a maximum 15-year ban

Shares in bid survivors lag market

Companies that survive hostile takeover bids have tended to underperform the stock market by a hefty margin, claims a report from Scottish Amicable Investment Managers, *The Ones that Got Away*.

On average they underperformed the market by 12 per cent over one year, 21 per cent over two years and 25 per cent over the three years after the takeover bid failed.

Power sale

National Power, the electricity generator, has talked down suggestions that the sale of 4,000MW of generating plant, as ordered by the industry regulator, could be delayed by a Monopolies and Mergers (MMC) Commission inquiry.

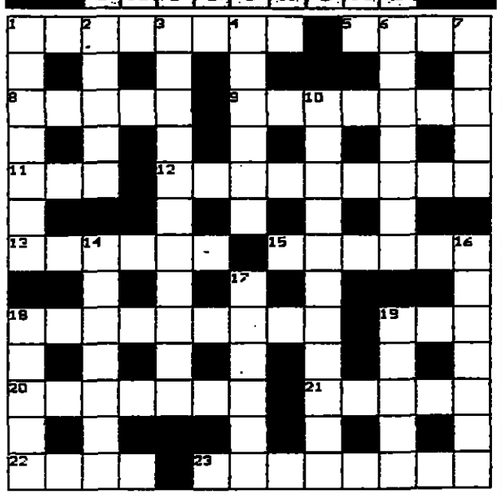
The MMC is looking at National Power's £2.8 billion bid for Southern Electric, a regional power distributor. A report is due in March, when the generator expects the forced sale to be concluded.

Inco's move

Inco, the Canadian nickel giant, has until Wednesday to decide whether to step into the bid fray following Friday's C$4 billion (£1.9 billion) agreed merger between Robert Friedland's Diamond Fields Resources group and Falconbridge.

Inco has the right to make a counter-bid for Diamond Fields in which it is a minority shareholder.

TIMES TWO CROSSWORD



No 702

ACROSS
1 A lush(8)
5 Read cursorily (4)
8 Simple dress; change (5)
9 (Water) tank (7)
11 Large vase (3)
12 Outcry in pursuit of villain (3,3,3)
13 A science; convict Bay (6)
15 Circus ring (3,3)
18 Support with money (9)
19 Professional charge (3)
20 Bent, criminally-inclined (7)
21 All play (*mus.*) (5)
22 Team; aspect; swagger (4)
23 Give-away (sign) (4-4)

DOWN
1 Interrupt, annoy (7)
2 Conjunction (5)
3 Grittily realistic (drama) (7,4)
4 To-and-fro chair; old Mod enemy (6)
6 Very short hairstyle (4-3)
7 Live-in child-minder (5)
10 Over-emotional, mawkish (11)
14 Small-size newspaper (7)
16 Take the chair (7)
17 Puzzle; fill with holes (6)
18 Clothes, pulled up by the reforming (5)
19 Authoritative (Islamic) ruling (5)

SOLUTION TO NO 701

ACROSS: 1 Stalls 5 Memo 8 Drag 9 Idee fixe 10 Soft soap 11 Lump 12 Strict 14 Carafe 16 Flip 18 Evaluate 20 Nutshell 21 Chit 22 Bard 23 Dredge
DOWN: 2 Turn/out 3 Light 4 Slip of the pen 5 Muffler 6 Maxim 7 Bespectacled 13 Imposed 15 Fitting 17 Laura 19 Uncle

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Conflict leaves Karadzic in fantasy land



Stacy Sullivan meets the Bosnian Serb leader in Zvornik, where he has delusions about creating a brave new world

Radovan Karadzic is a man with delusions. Sitting at a modern riverfront hotel in Zvornik, he speaks about his plans to rebuild the economy of the Serb Republic. He envisages a first-rate university and medical centre in the new modern city for the Bosnian Serbs.

Dr Karadzic, who has been indicted by the United Nations War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, described his visions for an ethnically pure fantasy land and denied that any Muslims were massacred when Bosnian Serb forces overran the Srebrenica enclave in July.

"There was no order to kill them. Nobody under my command would dare kill those who were arrested or captured as prisoners of war," Dr Karadzic said in an interview with *The Times*.

An international warrant has been issued for Dr Karadzic's arrest and his Serb Republic is occupied by several thousand Nato soldiers who are empowered by the Dayton peace agreement to detain him and hand him over to the tribunal for trial. But Dr Karadzic, accompanied by several armed bodyguards, still roams Serb-held Bosnia and visits Serbia itself.

Last week he drove in a two-car entourage through the burnt-out houses of Zvornik to a hotel where he met a delegation of other Bosnian Serb leaders before driving to Belgrade. To reach there, he passed through the town of Vlasenica, where US troops have set up a base. Nato patrols were present all along the road. Dr Karadzic and his entourage were not stopped.

It is no secret that the Nato troops from the Implementation Force are trying to avoid a confrontation with the alleged war criminals. When asked what a Nato official would do if he happened on either Dr Karadzic or General Ratko Mladic, the Bosnian Serb military leader, a Nato officer said: "I think he might do nothing. I'd be astonished if Ifor soldiers actually detained any war criminals."

Dr Karadzic insisted that he is still in charge of the Serb Republic. "I am absolutely fully involved. Everything concerning the Serb Republic is in my hands," he said. He claimed the low profile he has taken since the signing of the Dayton agreement has nothing to do with the international arrest warrant. "I am extremely busy at the moment. We have to build a new economy. We have to set up a banking system and build university and clinical facilities, as well as housing for 130,000 Serbs," he said.

"I want a free society and market economy. We didn't have a single political trial or political prisoner during 3½ years of war. Our state is a democracy and we did not commit a single crime."

The Serb Republic had been unfairly vilified, Dr Karadzic said. "We were ethnically cleansed, if you want to know the truth. There are more Serb refugees than Muslims and Croats together, but that was more by events than policy."

Asked why there were still about 30,000 Serbs living in Sarajevo and virtually no Muslims left in the Serb Republic, Dr Karadzic had a ready answer. "Because we did not keep them by force. The Muslims are keeping the Serbs by force. They are ethnic hostages."

Dr Karadzic denied that his army set up detention camps across Bosnia in which tens of thousands of Muslims were imprisoned, tortured and killed. "This is terrible propaganda. The Muslims have killed so many Serb civilians."

Although Dr Karadzic is convinced of his innocence, he has refused to go to The Hague to answer the allegations against him. "If The Hague was a real juridical body I would be ready to go there to testify or do so on television, but it is a political body that has been created to blame the Serbs," he said.

Dr Karadzic said he welcomed the new peace in Bosnia but said the international community had made a mistake in Sarajevo.

"If they had split Sarajevo into two, one half for us and the other for Muslims, Sarajevo would not become a Tehran. If we leave Sarajevo, there will be 1½ million Muslims and no European Christian culture, and we will be subjected to fundamentalism."



Dr Karadzic, indicted by the UN War Crimes Tribunal in The Hague, denies Muslims were massacred when Bosnian Serb forces overran Srebrenica

Holbrooke attempts to heal rift with Serbs

By Stacy Sullivan

RICHARD HOLBROOKE, the architect of the Dayton peace agreement, visited Sarajevo yesterday to try to patch up a row with the Bosnian Serbs that threatens to undermine the peace process.

Calling the crisis "the first serious challenge" to the peace deal, Mr Holbrooke told the former warring parties that they had no choice but to abide by the accord they agreed in December. "We are here to insist on full compliance with Dayton, no exceptions, no changes," he said.

The dispute arose after General Ratko Mladic ordered Bosnian Serb troops to sever ties with the Nato peacekeeping force in retaliation at the detention by the Bosnian Government of two Serb officers and eight other soldiers on suspicion of war crimes.

Four of the soldiers were released on Saturday, prompting the Serbs to re-establish ties with the Nato force, but not with Sarajevo.

Mr Holbrooke is also to visit Belgrade, where he is expected to meet President Milosevic.

Keating slips into campaign lead with TV 'wiggle'

From Roger Maynard in Sydney

PAUL KEATING, the Australian Prime Minister, emerged marginally ahead of the Opposition leader, John Howard, in a nationally televised debate last night.

Two weeks into a campaign which has hardly set the nation alight, Australian television's answer to the clapometer — a wiggly line on the screen reflecting audience responses to the leaders' answers — was brought out to add a little pizazz to the lacklustre proceedings.

And the "worm", as it is known, gave Mr Keating a 2 per cent lead over Mr Howard, when the audience was asked whom it would be supporting. Previous opinion polls had put the Opposition as much as 14 per cent ahead of the Government.

The worm showed that Mr Keating scored well during the hour-long face-to-face when he attacked Mr Howard for not spelling out his policies, while the Liberal leader won the audience's support when he spoke about the need to address unemployment. Australia has 770,000 jobless, and while the national unemployment rate is 8.6 per cent the number of young people out of work is almost 30 per cent, a figure which represents one of the greatest hurdles facing the Labor Party, if it is to stay in power.

What is clear from the debate is that, with just under three weeks to go before Australians go to the polls, the result itself remains wide open. Certainly Mr Howard has never suggested a Liberal victory will be easy, but after 13 years of Labor rule even diehard socialists agreed the odds must be in the Opposition's favour.

The two leaders did agree last night to return for another national debate in a few weeks' time. Unlikely, as it is, that it will set the world on fire, it will be worth watching, if only to monitor the worm.



Keating: popular when he was on the attack

Australia overjoyed by bumper wine crop

By Roger Maynard

UNDER the harsh glare of the noon sun, Australian winemakers have been celebrating what they expect to be a record grape crop.

After four years of drought, early estimates suggest this year's harvest will produce 25 per cent more fruit than last year, as much as 830,000 tonnes of grapes — much of it for Britain. In the New South Wales Hunter Valley, vineyard owners could hardly contain themselves as they surveyed their thick bunches of succulent grapes in the final stages of ripening.

"We are very excited by what we've got here," said Phillip Ryan, of McWilliam's. "The grapes are very clean and they are certainly a good size." Just down the road Brian McGuigan, who exports nearly a third of his wine, has already started harvesting some of his grapes for sparkling wine. "We're delighted with the way the vineyard looks, especially after last year's dismal vintage," he said. This year the rain and the sun have arrived on cue, achieving both a bumper crop and quality fruit.

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ARTS THE WEEK AHEAD



THEATRE

Elizabeth McGovern makes her British stage debut in *The Misanthrope* at the Young Vic

OPENS: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



RECITAL

Amanda Roocroft takes a night off from opera to sing at the Wigmore Hall

CONCERT: Tomorrow
REVIEW: Thursday



MUSIC

Power and passion from Myung-Whun Chung, conducting a Barbican concert of Russian epics

CONCERT: Thursday
REVIEW: Saturday



FILM

A board game comes to life in a jungle spectacular called *Jumanji*

OPENS: Friday
REVIEW: Thursday

LONDON

PIANISTS' WORK. Londoners are treated to some of the finest twinkling fingers at the keyboard this week, starting with András Schiff's Haydn and Bartók series tonight. Jack Gibbons then gives only the second performance in history of Alkan's stupendously difficult 12 Etudes, Op 39 at the Queen Elizabeth Hall on Thursday
Wigmore Hall, Wigmore Street, W1 (0171-935 2141) Tonight, Wed and Sat, 7.30pm.

EAST LYNNE: Opening night for Mrs Henry Wood's famous tale of the downfall of Lady Isabel Vane, played by Rachel Power (Mary Garth in *Middlemarch*) Philip Franks directs new adaptation by Lisa Evans, who made a fine version of *The Tenant of Wildfell Hall* last year.
Greenwich, Croom's Hill, SE10 (0181-858 7755) Tonight, 7pm Then Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; Sat, 2.30pm. Until Mar 18

RODELINDA: Jonathan Miller directs a semi-staged performance of Handel's history of Lombardy, with Sophie Daneman as the heroine "widow" repelling the advances of the tyrant she believed dispossessed her husband Nicholas Kraemer conducts. If you can't attend tonight, a recording will be available later in the year and the whole shebang can be seen again at the Broomhill Opera Festival this summer

TODAY'S CHOICE

A daily guide to arts and entertainment compiled by Kris Anderson

Blackheath Concert Halls, 23 Lee Road, SE3 (0181-463 0100). 7.30pm.

ELSEWHERE

BIRMINGHAM: Mari Wilson leaves the infamous kitsch attire behind, going for mainstream jazz respectability with the assistance of such luminaries as saxophonist Chico Freeman. Her current band includes trumpeter Duncan MacKay and Simon Hale at the keyboard.
Ronnie Scott's, Broad Street (0121-643 4525). Tonight-Sat 17, 8pm.

CRANBROOK: The National Theatre's touring production of **The Frogs** arrives here for two performances. Aristophanes sends Dionysos down to the underworld to find a moral leader written when a demoralized Athens faced defeat.
Queen's Hall, Cranbrook School (01580-712163) Tonight and tomorrow, 7.45pm. Next stop, Brighton, Gardner Arts Centre (01273-685861) Thurs-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Sat, 2.30pm

LEICESTER: Nick Hornby's **Fever Pitch**, adapted by Paul Hodson, bravely arrives as part of the comedy festival. Tom Watt plays the totally obsessed Arsenal fan
Football Club (0116-291 5232). Tonight-Tue, 8pm, Thurs, 6.30 and 9.30pm

WINDSOR: Michael Frayn's **Now You Know** makes a pre-London tour, with Adam Faith leading the cast as head of an organisation dedicated to unearthing political secrets. First seen at Hampstead, the new cast includes Patricia Brake, Janet Dibley, Anouschka Mendes. Michael Blakemore directs.
Theatre Royal (0115-948 2626). Tonight-Sat, 8pm, mats Thurs, 2.00pm and Sat, 4.45pm.

LONDON GALLERIES

Barbican: Diaghilev: Creator of the Ballets Russes (0171-638 4141) . . **British Museum:** Hellenistic World: Art and Culture (0171-636 1555) . . **National Gallery:** Paintings from National Trust Houses (0171-747 2885) . . **National Portrait Gallery:** Lure of the Limelight: James Abbe Photographs (0171-306 0055) . . **Serpentine:** Jana Sterbak (0171-723 9072) . . **Tate:** Cézanne; Bill Woodrow: 15 bronze statues (0171-887 8000) . . **V & A:** Jain Art from India; San Lorenzo Silversmiths Studio, Milan (0171-938 8500)

Dirty job, dirty minds

In David Hare's excellent *Skylight*, soon to move to the West End, a leading character launches into an impassioned defence of slum teachers, social workers, probation officers and others who, while mocked by the public at large, "do what nobody else is willing to do, try to clear out society's drains". Nowhere in her list of unloved professions are child psychiatrists cited but, on the evidence of Stephen Poliakoff's fascinating new play, they certainly should be. For Clare, the shrink played by Harriet Walter, there are days when it feels as if people are not just waiting for her to clean the sewers but hurling the contents in her face.

Take the day that she enjoys in the play's second half. Her most imaginative client does a runner. A young man she sees as her greatest success assaults her. Her monomaniac lover rages at her for not attending his lecture on London buses. Her usually withdrawn secretary suddenly attacks her for insensitivity to the wishes of parents. And a barmy, vindictive mother lures her into the car park beneath Marble Arch and . . . but you will not wish me to give away the fun in store in those concrete catacombs.

It is a rich, finely written play that gets a bit confusing and implausible towards the end but always grips. As often with Poliakoff, many of the characters are odd, alienated, needy, obsessed. Some project their need, obsession, guilt, paranoia, and failure onto Clare herself, most obviously Mrs Trevel, the self-styled "mother from hell" played with a wonderful mix of uptight preciosity and genteel menace by Saskia Reeves.

Clare has the ill-luck to be out of town when the 11-year-old son of this wildly over-protective woman goes missing. He is soon found, but irrational indignation has transformed Mrs Trevel into a blend of avenger and stalker who persistently turns up unannounced, vowing to wreak professional ruin. Not until she has got Clare to confess her own helplessness and panic does she relent and revert to the relatively sane person she presumably is, or so I interpret a climax that might be clearer if Poliakoff were not himself directing.

Certainly, he seems to be attempting some tricky things. Having seduced us into seeing everything through Clare's eyes, he wants us to see Clare through Mrs Trevel's arrogantly faking a confidence she does not possess. However, he manages neither to bring off that transition nor to broaden the play's scope as he would wish. There is a lot of talk about the danger of retreating into a romanticised past and the difficulty of coping with a baffling future, but Poliakoff only sporadically makes us feel those ideas.

Yet it is a joy to re-encounter a droll, off-beat talent absent from the stage for far too long. Who else would bring on a father who solemnly unpacks a briefcase full of vegetables, then makes a psychiatrist taste the soup his company has made from them, all to prove he is not the idiot he suspects his son says he is? Who else would ask Walter both to convey the vulnerability and embattled warmth of the character she is playing and to do some very decent impressions of the kids on her couch? It is not only Clare she brings to life, but stolid little George, truculent little Leo, and the evening's unseen heroine, adventurous, creative little Jess.

BENEDICT NIGHTINGALE

Sweet Panic
Hampstead



DONALD COOPER

In your face: Harriet Walter's child psychiatrist is abused by Rupert Penry-Jones

THEATRE GUIDE

Jeremy Kingston's assessment of theatre showing in London

■ House full, returns only
◪ Some seats available
□ Seats at all prices

□ **1953.** Emma Fielding, Jason Isaacs and Adam Kotz play the lead roles in Craig Raine's version of Racine's *Andromache* updated to an imagined Italy ruled by Mussolini's son. Patrick Marber (author of of *Dealer's Choice*) directs
Almeida, Almeida Street, N1 (0171-359 4404). Now previewing, 8pm; opens Wed, 7pm

□ **THE CHANGING ROOM:** David Storey's fascinating play about a rugby league team preparing for the weekly game. James Macdonald directs the third in the season of Royal Court Classics
Duke of York's, St Martin's Lane, WC2 (0171-836 5122) Mon-Sat, 7.30pm, mats Thurs and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **CHAPTER TWO:** Tom Conti and Sharon Gless play two unattached New Yorkers whirling towards each other. New Neil Simon comedy
Gielgud, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5065). Now previewing, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm. Opens Feb 19, 7pm.

□ **LES ENFANTS DU PARADIS:** Helen McCrory, Joseph Fiennes, Rupert Graves in Simon Callow's disappointing and lo-ng (4 and a half hours) version of the film.
Barbican, Silk Street, EC2 (0171-638 8891). Tonight-Tue, 7.15pm. In rep

□ **FUNNY MONEY.** Ray Cooney plays the man who finds a bag of bank-notes in his latest farce; Rodney Bewes is the sorely-tried taxi-driver.
Playhouse, Northumberland Avenue, WC2 (0171-839 4401). Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm

◪ **HEAVEN BY STORM:** Opening night for the Umbilical Brothers: the Australian acrobatic comedians, Shane Dundas and Dave Collins, bring their ingenious and alluring show to London.
Arts, Great Newport Street, WC2 (0171-836 2132). Tonight, 8pm. Then Mon-Sat, 8pm. Until Mar 16.

◪ **AN IDEAL HUSBAND:** Triumphant return for Peter Hall's production of Wilde's drama of political sleaze and scandal. The star cast includes Martin Shaw, Anna Carteret, Pennie Downie.
Theatre Royal, Haymarket, SW1 (0171-930 8800). Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mats Wed and Sat, 3pm.

◪ **LEE EVANS:** The rubber-boned comedian, here for a short season
Lyric, Shaftesbury Avenue, W1 (0171-494 5049). Mon-Fri, 8pm; Sat, 6pm and 8.30pm.

□ **THE LONG AND THE SHORT AND THE TALL:** Mark Arden and Bert Kwouk in revival of Willis Hall's celebrated jungle-war drama; produced by Counterpoint Theatre Co.
Albery, St Mann's Lane, WC2 (0171 369 1730) Mon-Sat, 8pm; mats Thurs, 3pm and Sat, 5pm.

■ **STANLEY:** Interesting Pam Gems play, with Antony Sher a persuasive Stanley Spencer, inspired by Cookham, troubled by wives.
National (Cottesloe), South Bank, SE1 (0171-928 2252) Tonight-Thurs, 7.30pm; mat Tue, 2.30pm

◪ **SWEETHEART:** Accomplished second play by Nick Grosso: Joe Duttine plays a boy with love and work troubles. Authentic quick dialogue.
Upstairs, Royal Court, Sloane Square, SW1 (0171-730 1745) Mon-Sat, 7.45pm; mat Feb 6, 3pm and Sat, 4pm.

LONG RUNNERS

□ **Blood Brothers:** Phoenix (0171-867 1044) . . □ **Crazy for You:** Prince Edward (0171-734 8951) . . □ **Dead Guilty:** Apollo (0171-494 5070) . . . ◪ **Jolson:** Victoria Palace (0171-834 1317) . . . ◪ **Les Misérables:** Palace (0171-434 0909) . . . ◪ **Oliver!:** Palladium (0171-494 5020) . . . □ **Sunset Boulevard:** Adelphi (0171-344 0055) . . ◪ **The Woman in Black:** Fortune (0171-836 2238)

Ticket information supplied by Society of London Theatre.

Tears at Bath time

The Rivals
Royal Exchange, Manchester

ON THE programme cover is a close-up of Maureen Lipman looking pained. And well she might. Lipman's Mrs Malaprop has not just picked all the wrong words, she has made a perilous mistake in choosing this production.

Why is Sheridan's Bath, furnished with elegantly spindly Regency chairs, reverberating to a pop-rock version of Purcell? Why does our changeable romantic heroine Lydia Languish finally rush in to become official fiancée to Jack Absolute in 18th-century costume topped with a postwar hat? Wonder on. Maybe Braham Murray, the director, has confused malapropisms with anachronisms.

The bigger problem with this staging is that nobody is truly laughable or lovable. Tony Britton comes closest as Jack's aged yet domineering father, Sir Anthony, testily whacking innocent footmen with his cane because his son is bridling at an arranged marriage. Lipman also has her funny moments as Lydia's gaudily frilled guardian aunt. In her whipped-up wig and double-width bustle, she has traces of an Ugly Sister and Wicked Witch but her humour is not really flourishing.

Stand-up comedian John Thomson, as country bumpkin Bob Acres, brings a short spurt of energy into the spa town, but he runs out of steam. Dominic Rowan as Jack cuts a fine figure in his regimental kit but he is not a natural romantic rogue.

Jonathan Weir, as Faulkland, does not get the funny side of his character. Annabel Mullion is too mature for Lydia, who is supposed to be just 17.

There ought to be both more humour and more passion. This is a portrait of polite society, fevered with love and rage. At least Sheridan's comic rhythms — the lovers blowing hot and cold, the crescendos of bad temper — survive. Still, if these are the pleasures of Bath, I would prefer an icy shower.

KATE BASSETT

Basil goes a bit faulty

O Isabella!
BAC, Battersea

REMEMBERING no more about poor Isabella than that she watered a pot of basil with her tears, I rummaged around for my Keats and read the relevant poem's LXIII stanzas over lunch to discover what he says about her unusual style of horticulture.

Well, fair Isabella loves young Lorenzo but her proud brothers intend her to marry a Florentine noble, so they lure the handsome Lorenzo into the woods, where they kill and bury him. Lorenzo visits Isabella in a dream and informs her of what has occurred. Out she goes to the woods, digs up the corpse, cuts off the head and, yes, places it in a pot. "And o'er it set Sweet Basil, which her tears kept ever wet."

But really I need not have bothered because the story comes and goes in the first five minutes of *O Isabella!* *You Bad, Bad Girl*, an inscrutable 80-minute piece by the Yorkshire-based Alison Andrews Company. The remaining 75 minutes presumably disclose something of Isabella's nocturnal wanderings in, or out of, dreamland.

The setting is a pleasing room of Georgian proportions. Four chairs are placed near the panels but not too near because the four players will be emerging through the panels, each announcing her, or in one case his, name to be Parrot. Parrot? Don't ask.

The players in their black suits or frocks move elegantly around on another, they smile a lot, the man particularly.

Then it is Christmas: lots of presents in gold paper, and a *pot* — aha! — in matt black. The tree speaks. It is the family tree. And I am nearly sure that the burden of the dreamer's history is guilt. Bodily functions get plenty of mentions. So, but not often, does the family herb garden.

In the absence of a narrative voice, I could not work out why particular lines (text by Lavinia Murray) were spoken when they were, nor why they accompanied particular movements. Dedicated players, baffling play.

JEREMY KINGSTON

NEW RELEASES

CLOCKERS (18): Spike Lee's heavy-handed version of Richard Price's novel about young drug-dealers in Brooklyn. With Harvey Keitel, Delroy Lindo and Mekhi Phifer
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGM Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Rio** (0171-254 6677) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

DESPERADO (18): Overblown follow-up to *El Mariachi*, with Antonio Banderas as the guitar-playing killer seeking vengeance. Director, Robert Rodriguez
Clapham Picture House (0171-498 3323) **MGMs: Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **JOHNNY MNEMONIC** (15): The Yakuza want the contents of Keanu Reeves's head. Futuristic folly from cyberpunk author William Gibson. Director, Robert Longo
Odeons: Kensington (01426 914666) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914098) **West End** (01426 915574)

◆ **LOCH NESS** (PG): Ted Danson looks for Nessie in a dull, harmless adventure. With Joely Richardson. Director, John Henderson
MGMs: Fulham Road ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Haymarket** (0171-839 1527) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

◆ **A LITTLE PRINCESS** (U): Marvellous rendering of the children's classic, with Liesel Matthews as the boarding school girl plunged from riches to rags. Director, Alfonso Cuarón.
MGMs: Chelsea (0171-352 5096) **Tottenham Court Road** (0171-636 6148) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332) **Warner** ◪ (0171-437 4343)

RENDEZ-VOUS IN PARIS (PG): Three tales of love and chance. Featherweight delight from Eric Rohmer, with a youthful cast of unknowns.
Minema (0171-235 4225) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402)

CURRENT

◆ **FATHER OF THE BRIDE PART II** (PG). Steve Martin laces the palter of tiny feet. Bland comedy sequel, with Diane Keaton and Kimberly Williams.
MGMs: Baker Street (0171-935 9772) **Chelsea** (0171-352 5096) **Odeons: Kensington** (01426 914666) **Leicester Sq** (01426 915883) **Marble Arch** (01426 914501) **Swiss Cottage** (01426 914 098) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (792 3332)

THE FLOWER OF MY SECRET (15). Crisis point for a woman writer of romantic fiction. Surprisingly sober and tender drama from Pedro Almodóvar. With Marisa Paredes
Curzon Mayfair (0171-369 1720) **Gate** ◪ (0171-727 4043) **Renoir** (0171-837 8402) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121) **Screen/Hill** (0171-435 3366)

◆ **HEAT** (15): LA detective Al Pacino tries to catch Robert De Niro's crooks. Excellent epic crime drama from writer-director, Michael Mann.
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◆ **SABRINA** (PG): Businessman Harrison Ford falls for the chauffeur's daughter, Julia Ormond. Updated Cinderella story just does not work. Director, Sydney Pollack.
Empire (0171-437 1234) **MGMs: Baker St** (0171-935 9772) **Fulham Rd** ◪ (0171-370 2636) **Trocadero** ◪ (0171-434 0031) **Plaza** (0171-437 1234) **UCI Whiteleys** ◪ (0171-792 3332)

WITHNAIL & I (15): Reveal of Bruce Robinson's quirky cult comedy, with Richard E. Grant and Paul McGann as would-be actors miserable in the Lake District.
MGMs: Fulham Road (0171-370 2636) **Shaftesbury Avenue** (0171-836 6279) **Ritzy** (0171-737 2121)

CINEMA GUIDE

Geoff Brown's assessment of films in London and (where indicated with the symbol ◆) on release across the country

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Tomor, Fri 7.30 AIDA
Thur 7.30 (Last Night) SAMSON ET DALILA
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Sat 7.30 Ashton's RHAPSODY/NEW HART BALLET/ NEW PAGE PAS DE DEUX/ MacMillan's THE INVITATION

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■ POP

Mike Flowers, the undisputed king of the cheesy sound, plays the Forum, Kentish Town

GIG: Friday
REVIEW: Monday



■ BOOKS

An entertaining novel of luvvies in lust comes from the peri of Nicol Williamson

IN THE SHOPS: Now
REVIEW: Saturday



■ OPERA

Stravinsky the Welsh way: *The Rake's Progress* is staged at the New Theatre, Cardiff

OPENS: Saturday
REVIEW: Monday



■ BLUES

Here he comes again: Eric Clapton pitches his tent in the Albert Hall for his annual season

GIGS: From Sunday
REVIEW: Next week

ARTS TUESDAY TO FRIDAY IN SECTION 2

Thrilling celebration of love

DONALD COOPER



Elizabeth Connell, "steady as a rock" and radiant as Isolde, with George Gray as a heroic Tristan, in David Alden's superb new ENO staging of Wagner's epic love story

Rodney Milnes applauds English National Opera's superlative new production of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde* at the Coliseum

There is only one thing more tedious than reading a rave notice, and that is writing one. So I must find something to niggle at in the new ENO *Tristan*. Well, the Shepherd wears a blind man's dark glasses, something of a cliché now. But given his function as lookout in the doom-laden Act III, it is pretty apt use of cliché.

There is one contentious piece of casting, but that is mostly Wagner's fault. Brangaene calls for a meaty mezzo with a dramatic soprano top. The young mezzo Susan Parry cannot be faulted for spirit or commitment, but this is perhaps a role best given to singers of mature years with nothing to lose. And to say that every word of Andrew Porter's wise and faithful translation is audible would be untruthful (do you ever hear every word in German?). But more than enough came across to justify the principle of opera in the vernacular.

Otherwise, Mark Elder's freshly conceived musical interpretation, David Alden's equally original production — by far the most concentrated and disciplined he has yet given us — and a series of pole-axing individual performances combine to make this as thrilling an evening as the ENO has given us for many a year.

Elder pays little heed to the *Tristan* of tradition, that 12-tog duvet of heavy-breathing and ultimately tedious eroticism. He draws his favoured lean, muscular string sound, light on vibrato, from the attentive orchestra, and uses this basis for an ideally clear realisation of the score. You can *hear* the complex musical thought throughout.

At first the playing and brisk speeds sounded too bracing, even for a first act set on board ship. There was little of the hesitant, breath-catching soupiness often favoured in the love duet; rather, a sweet, smooth-flowing lyricism. But the pain of Act III was nigh unbearable, and Elder's overall grasp of the work's structure became ever clearer: his interpretation was planned and convincingly executed from first bar to last.

The *Liebestod*, conceived in partnership with Elizabeth Connell's magnificent Isolde, crowned it. Fast, impulsive, brightly sung, this was not portentous "Love-Death" but joyous "Love-Life", a hymn of triumph. Together, Elder and Connell found Janáček's secret of using music to transform disaster into a celebration of the human spirit. It may not be what Wagner had in mind, but what the hell? It sent you home on an enormous high, and there are worse things to do to an audience.

It is as though Connell's whole career had been building towards Saturday's first night. Her singing was steady as a rock, tirelessly radiant, phrased with the pliancy and tenderness born of years of singing Verdi. George Gray, her Tristan, sturdy and a touch phlegmatic early on, gave us beautiful singing in the love duet and rose heroically to the delirium of Act III. Gwynne Howell's King Mark surpassed even his previous performances of the role, with every word telling across seamless musical lines.

Jonathan Summers's tousled, kilted Kurwenal was unsparingly intense, and the casting of first-rate singers in small roles paid off. John Hudson's crystal-clear Sailor got the opera off to a fine start, Christopher Booth-Jones made Melot a major role, and Alasdair Elliot sang the blind Shepherd most beautifully.

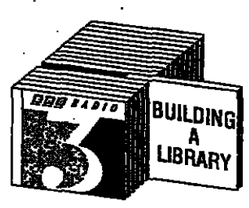
The success of Alden's production is based on his actual direction of the singers, always his strongest suit and here highlighted by the absence of design clutter: Ian MacNeil's decor — a slightly foxed brick wall — is simplicity itself. In the last act the stage is bare save for one chair, leaving the field free for the singers, Wolfgang Göbbel's gorgeous lighting and a series of stage pictures of breathtaking beauty.

This is a *Tristan* for today, with decades of varnish stripped away, compelling audiences to think about it afresh. For what more can one ask?

CLASSICAL CHOICE

A guide to the best available recordings, presented in conjunction with Radio 3

VERDI'S *DON CARLOS*
reviewed by Michael Oliver



Verdi wrote *Don Carlos* for the Paris Opera, which insisted on five acts of scenic magnificence, with a compulsory ballet in the third. He outdid himself, but also miscalculated: the opera was vastly too long and had to be savagely cut. Five versions exist. The longer ones are too long for most theatres, but the shorter ones drop vital stitches from the plot.

It is essentially a fated triangle: Elisabeth de Valois and Don Carlos of Spain are in love, but for political reasons she must marry his elderly, widowed father, the tyrannical Philip II. But its other themes — the loneliness of kingship, religious intolerance and the power of the Inquisition, heroic friendship — were not inessentials to Verdi, and a recording can more easily do justice to them than any but the most lavish (and hugely long) stage production.

Of the nine recordings currently available, four use Verdi's final, five-act revision. Two others prefer a version, also sanctioned by him, that entirely removes the beautiful Act I. The three oldest recordings, although all of them feature fine singers, are so heavily cut that they seriously damage the musical drama.

Claudio Abbado's five-act version (DG 415 316-2, £44.95) has a supplement, which stretches the set to 4 CDs. It contains the ballet music that Verdi wrote for the original Paris premiere — no other recording includes this — and five of the other scenes that he cut and never replaced.

The best of the conventional five-act recordings are both starrily cast and strongly conducted. Sir Georg Solti's version, with Renata Tebaldi, Carlo Bergonzi, Grace Bumbry, Dietrich Fischer-Dieskau and Nicolai Ghiaurov (Decca 421 114-2) is powerful, full-voiced, spectacularly recorded and rather hard-driven.

Carlo Maria Giulini (EMI CDS 7 47701-8) is no less epic, but finds room for grace as well. His cast is no less splendid — Montserrat Caballé, Placido Domingo, Shirley Verrett, Sherrill Milnes and Ruggero Raimondi — and if you want the standard five-act score without ballet, his version is richly satisfying. A more recent recording, by James Levine, is on the whole rather under-characterised and over-emphatically conducted.

Of the four-act recordings, the most recent is again unsatisfactory (Riccardo Muti, wildly hyperactive; even Luciano Pavarotti sounds rushed at times). Herbert von Karajan's second attempt (his first was severely cut) is so well sung, by the likes of Mirella Freni, José Carreras and Agnes Baltsa, that the listener misses the absent Act I all the more poignantly (EMI CMS 7 69304-2 — mid-price).



Claudio Abbado: reveals the magnificent music that the composer cut out

Abbado's "more-than-complete" version, although expensive because of its four discs, competes with most others in terms of sheer singing (Katia Ricciarelli, Domingo, Raimondi); equals them in flair and passion, and exceeds them in the revelation of what magnificent music Verdi was prepared to jettison in order to reduce his opera to a length the public would stomach.

● *Recommended recordings can be ordered from the Times CD Mail, 29 Pall Mall Deposit, Barlby Road, London W10 6BL (freephone 0500 418419; e-mail: bid@mail.bogo.co.uk)*
● *Next Saturday on Radio 3 (9am): Ravel's* La Valse

Going like a Trane

DRUMMER and band leader Clark Tracey could be forgiven for wishing that the critic Whitney Balliett's description of jazz as "the sound of surprise" could be restricted exclusively to matters musical.

However, like the true professional he is, he reacted to the sudden unavailability of his quartet's young trumpeter, Gerard Presencer, by arranging for one of the UK's strongest soloists, saxophonist Alan Skidmore, to take his place at five hours' notice.

Not only that, but Tracey turned the whole situation to his advantage by playing to his unexpected guest's strengths and having him front the quartet in two sets dedicated to the music of John Coltrane.

Tracey, both because of his various outfits' predilection for rousing hard bop, and for his unerring ability to spot and bring on fresh young talent, has frequently been described as Britain's Art Blakey. But on this occasion he assumed the mantle of Elvin Jones, the classic Coltrane quartet's drummer, with relish and aplomb. The quartet was completed by Steve Hamilton on piano and bassist Arnie Somogyi.

As is often the way in jazz, the sheer unexpectedness of the situation caused the musicians' improvisational adrenalin to flow; they launched themselves into their opener, *Some Other Blues*, like sprinters leaving starting blocks, and never looked back.

Skidmore in particular, scorning the warm-up chorus necessary to lesser mortals, imbued his initial solo with the sort of sinewy, tumultuous vitality more frequently heard in set-closers, and Tracey immediately responded, bringing the rhythm section swiftly to the boil where, give or take a couple of Coltrane's yearning ballads, they remained all evening.

Clark Tracey Quartet
Pizza Express, W1

For vibrancy and vigour shot through with a highly affecting spiritual questing, Coltrane's music is unmatched, and Skidmore is arguably his most skilful British disciple. So two sets composed of classic Trane material were simply meat and drink both to him and the band as a whole.

Impressions featured breathtaking interplay between drummer and saxophonist. *Resolution*, the definitive jazz prayer, drew a solo of rapt, concentrated energy from Skidmore. *Mr PC*, the perfect fast blues jamming vehicle, elicited a solo of matching, seething power from Hamilton.

Sensibly leavened with the odd earnest, heart-on-sleeve ballad such as Mal Waldron's *Soul Eyes* and Coltrane's own *Lonnie's Lament*, this gig may not have been as advertised, but it certainly delivered the goods.

CHRIS PARKER

Royal National Theatre
Mother Courage and her Children
by Bertolt Brecht
In a new version by David Hare



"Brecht's greatest play has received one of the greatest productions it has ever had, or is ever likely to have, from Jonathan Kent... Diana Rigg gives the most tremendous performance of her career" Sunday Times

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Olivier Theatre: 14, 15, 16, 19 & 20 Feb at 7.15pm, 17 & 21 Feb at 2.00pm & 7.15pm & continuing.

NT NATIONAL THEATRE

PERSPECTIVES ON A PIONEER: DAY 4

Richard Cork continues his guide to the major Cézanne retrospective at the Tate Gallery

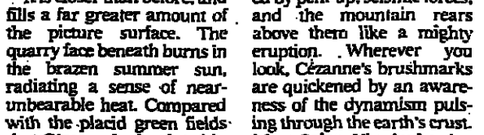


Mont Sainte-Victoire seen from Bibemus c.1897. The Baltimore Museum of Art

Nothing held Cézanne's lifelong loyalty with more magnetic force than Mont Sainte-Victoire. Surging up from the Provençal countryside near his home in Aix, this battered pyramid of rock was a subject he returned to with obsessive ardour.

The young Cézanne would have clambered across it during long, exalted walks through the landscape with his boyhood friend, Emile Zola. And the adult Cézanne found himself returning to the same motif, setting up his easel to study the mountain from different angles and at varying times of day.

According to local legend, the mountain's name commemorates the victory of Marius over the barbarians in the 1st century AD. When Cézanne painted it in the 1880s, he saw the scene through Poussin's Roman eyes as a harmonious, classical idyll. But by 1897, when he placed his easel in the quarries of Bibemus, the mountain took on a far tougher identity.



It is closer than before, and fills a far greater amount of the picture surface. The quarry face beneath burns in the brazen summer sun, radiating a sense of near-unbearable heat. Compared with the placid green fields that Cézanne had painted in the foreground of his earlier views, these orange cliffs show Provence at its most menacing and primordial.

To judge by the three pines ranged across the foreground, the artist positioned himself far above the quarry floor. So a feeling of vertiginous risk is added to the scene, where a chasm opens up between Cézanne and the mountain beyond. While stressing the weight of these boulder-like cliffs, Cézanne also sees them as a living force. Towards the centre of the painting, they appear to be crushing the slender pine growing between them.

The quarry seems animated by pent-up, seismic forces, and the mountain rears above them like a mighty eruption. Wherever you look, Cézanne's brushmarks are quickened by an awareness of the dynamism pulsing through the earth's crust. Mont Sainte-Victoire has become a Titan on the move.

● *Cézanne is at the Tate Gallery until April 28, sponsored by Ernst & Young. For advance booking, which is advised, telephone 0171-420 0000*

● **Tomorrow: Richard Cork concludes his series with a discussion of *The Large Bathers*, 1906**

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Day One of our two-part series: how scientific breakthroughs are helping parents

The race to a genetic timebomb

FROM YOU TO YOUR BABY

TODAY

● A lifetime's health forecast from the womb; a new chance for childless couples

TOMORROW

● Does the unborn child feel pain? . . . can you ever be too old to have a baby?



Mother and baby: a revolution in medical science is under way — from helping couples who once would have been cursed with childlessness to predicting a lifetime's health profile

PREDICTING A HEALTHY FUTURE

The race is on to find a "safe" genetic test which would predict whether an unborn baby is likely to develop a disease later in life. At the moment the only tests available can endanger both the mother and her foetus.

Doctors believe a new non-invasive technique, based on blood sampling, might be as close as five years away — but there is concern that there are implications for society if it were to be widely used.

The fear is that parents will be tempted to uncover the genetic fate of their child when it is unlikely ever to develop a serious disease. It might become acceptable, for example, to reveal a foetus's susceptibility to diabetes, heart disease, rheumatoid arthritis and cancers, even though it may, in fact, never develop any of them.

At present, serious problems such as cystic fibrosis, Huntington's chorea and Down's syndrome can be detected by either an amniocentesis or chorionic villus sampling (CVS). Both tests involve needles entering the womb to collect foetal cells. In a few per cent of cases, this can cause a miscarriage.

Research is going on into two alternative techniques, neither of which would harm the mother or baby. One solution might lie in blood testing, because small numbers of foetal cells leak through the placenta into the mother's blood. Dr David Miller, from the department of clinical medicine at Leeds University, is trying to find a way of separating these foetal cells from the maternal ones. "The problem is that for each foetal cell that leaks out, there are a million maternal cells," he says.

The second possibility is to inspect cells that have dropped from the womb into the woman's cervix. This procedure, known as transcervical recovery, is also being looked at by Dr Miller.

Scientists have already developed a way of screening so-called "test-tube" embryos before they are implanted into a mother-to-be. Dr Joy Delhanty, from University College London, is working with the fertility unit at Hammersmith Hospital, the only hospital in the UK licensed to screen embryos. The team tests for both life-threatening conditions, sex-linked problems such as haemophilia, and susceptibility to cancer. "It is slightly different from prenatal screening, because the pregnancy hasn't started," says Dr Delhanty. "We test lots of embryos and then the mother can choose the healthiest."

> 'When we have tested the embryos, the mother chooses the healthiest'

She does not think that scientific developments will lead to a stampede by parents anxious to chart their child's future health. "Most families will not be affected by a whole spectrum of diseases, so testing will probably be restricted to those most likely to develop," she says. "Also, the cost implications for screening every baby are enormous."

Professor Nicholas Wald, a prenatal screening expert at Bart's Hospital Medical College, agrees: "We have the technology to mass-screen for cystic fibrosis but we don't do it. So why should we do it for anything else?"

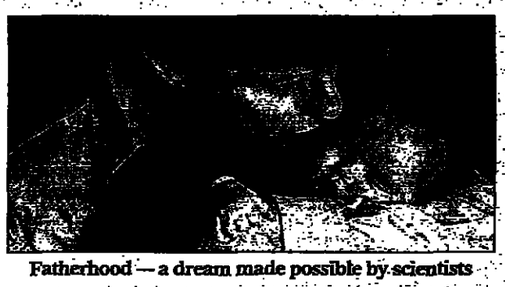
ANJANA AHUJA

Is this the cure for male infertility?

Thousands of men who cannot produce fully-formed sperm could soon be able to father children. Doctors have developed a method of extracting spermatid — a form of pre-sperm — from the testes and then injecting it into the egg in a laboratory dish. The fertilised egg is then returned to the woman's womb to develop into a baby.

Last month, the technique resulted in the birth of a healthy baby girl, Susan Louise Oxburgh, whose parents live in Aberdeen. Dr Simon Fishel, scientific director of Nottingham University's non-profit-making research and treatment unit in reproduction (Nurture), who pioneered the technique, says he now hopes to conduct trials involving more than 100 couples whose only hope of having their own child is spermatid injection. He is awaiting approval from the Human Fertilisation and Embryology Authority.

HOW THOUSANDS MAY BE HELPED



Fatherhood — a dream made possible by scientists

Dr Fishel believes that spermatid injection is far more revolutionary than traditional test-tube baby treatment. "In nature, this form of pre-sperm was never intended to fertilise the egg. The technique is about as invasive as you can get," he said.

One in six couples suffer from infertility and in about half the cases it is the male partner who has the problem. Last year about 3,000 babies were born in Britain as a result of treatments using donor sperm. "About 95 per cent of men whose infertility is now being treated using donor sperm could actually have their own genetic child," said Dr Fishel.

Spermatid injection is not available on the NHS and each treatment will cost almost £3,000. Scientists at Nurture hope that it will prove as successful as a technique known as ICSI, intra-cytoplasmic sperm injection, in which a single sperm is selected and injected into the egg in a laboratory dish. The "take home baby" success rate of ICSI at Nurture is now 27 per cent.

Dr Fishel says there were fears that by bringing egg and sperm together so soon, the complex set of checks and balances required to allow the foetus to develop normally might be disturbed. But the fears seem to be groundless; the development of spermatids into fully-formed sperm seems mostly to involve its development of a tadpole-like tail to help it to reach the female egg in the uterus.

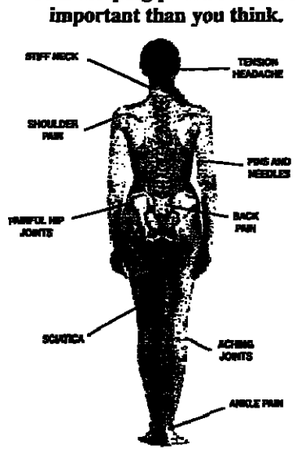
Within the next 18 months, Dr Fishel and his team hope to achieve human pregnancies using an even more controversial method. This uses an even earlier form of pre-sperm called the spermatocyte. Scientists in Hawaii have recently reported the birth of normally healthy mice by injecting spermatocytes directly into mice eggs.

Dr Fishel estimates that about 7 per cent of infertile men produce only spermatid, and that a possible further 7 per cent produce only spermatocytes.

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Biologists throw new light on how eggs develop

All thanks to a mouse

THE FIRST mouse to be grown from an egg matured in a test-tube could herald a new era in reproductive biology. Not only will it help in understanding how eggs develop, but it could also improve the techniques of *in vitro* fertilisation used to help infertile women to have children.

Of course, eggs have been successfully fertilised outside the body for years, but these have all been mature eggs harvested after women were treated with powerful hormone drugs to encourage ovulation. The new work, by John Eppig and Marilyn O'Brien of the Jackson Laboratory in Bar Harbor, Maine, has pulled off the same trick, but starting from the egg precursors, called oocytes.

So far, only a single mouse has been born, but it is healthy and normal. Biologists have been trying to grow oocytes for years, and the success, published last month in *Biology of Reproduction*, has been greeted with enthusiasm. "Just having one mouse born means that it is possible," Joanne Fortune of Cornell University told *Science*. "That's the important first step that we all needed to see."

All female mammals, including human beings, are born with thousands of oocytes, which mature one by one into eggs. The process of maturation, which in the mouse takes three weeks, involves signals which pass



SCIENCE BRIEFING

Nigel Hawkes

to the oocytes from the cells which surround them in the ovaries, called the granulosa cells. Dr Eppig has been trying to study these messages by culturing mixtures of oocytes and granulosa cells in a dish.

For a long time, he could not make it work, but then he and his research assistant Marilyn O'Brien stumbled on the answer. By culturing entire mouse ovaries for several days before exposing the oocyte-granulosa cell complexes to enzymes, and then supplying growth factors and stimulatory hormones, they persuaded about 40 per cent of the oocytes to mature.

When fertilised with mouse sperm, the eggs divided to the two-cell stage. Then they were placed back into surrogate mouse mothers. Only one of 190 transferred actually grew into a live-born mouse pup, so there is clearly plenty of room for fine-tuning. Varying the conditions should throw light on the process by which the oocytes develop.

The technique has possibilities for human use, although that is some way off. Oocytes may be easier to store than eggs, and the large number of eggs needed for successful *in vitro* fertilisation might be easier to obtain in this way than by dosing women with hormones. But keeping human oocytes alive and healthy through the long period of maturation is likely to prove a demanding task.

Help from a single injection



AN IMPROVED version of the hormone often given to women to treat infertility could make the process easier and much more effective. Many infertile women are treated with FSH (follicle-stimulating hormone) to promote ovulation. But FSH breaks down quickly in the body, necessitating repeated injections, sometimes several a day.

Dr Irving Boime, of Washington University Medical School in St Louis, has made FSH more resistant to breakdown by borrowing a subunit from a related hormone, human chorionic gonadotropin, and attaching it to FSH. Animal studies show that it lasts three times as long in the body, and Dr Boime believes that the modified FSH may prove to be more controllable.

The Dutch company Organon has licensed the technology for development. Dr Boime believes that a single injection of the modified FSH will be enough to stimulate ovulation without risking producing several eggs, and a multiple birth.

Protein boosts children's IQ



A STUDY in Guatemala has shown that nutritional supplements given to pregnant women and their babies can have significant effects on the children's mental development.

Between 1969 and 1977, more than 2,000 mothers and children in four villages were given either a high-protein supplement called Atole, or a fruit drink called Fresco, with no added protein. Following up more than ten years later, Dr Ernesto Pollitt of the University of California tested the children with a range of verbal, mathematical and IQ tests.

He found that children whose mothers had been given Atole, and who had eaten it themselves for at least two years, did significantly better on most tests than those who had been given Fresco.

Dr Pollitt concludes in *Scientific American* that where malnutrition is a risk, protein supplements can make a real difference, better intellectual development going hand-in-hand with better health and faster growth.

From mummies to motherhood

3-D SCANNING

AN ultrasound scanning technique used to create a three-dimensional image of the inside of Egyptian mummies may allow doctors to detect foetal abnormalities early.

They would be able to track the growth of babies' vital organs and identify those which were likely to have health problems. Then they would be able to perform prenatal surgery, or, if the mother decided to end her pregnancy, she would be able to do so at an early stage.

A clinical trial of the method on 200 pregnant women has just been completed at St Thomas' Hospital, in London, by Professor Anthony Milner and Darryl Maxwell and results are still awaited. The trial focused on the liver. Another study starting this spring will concentrate on the lungs — the last organ to be fully developed in the womb.

The technique was developed by Dr Stephen Hughes, a medical physicist at St Thomas'. He wrote a sophisticated computer program which converts a succession of conventional two-dimensional ultrasound slices into a three-dimensional image.

His software was originally used by the British Museum to determine the cause of death of Ancient Egyptians. During this work he hit upon the idea of adapting it to produce computer images of unborn children.

Researchers claim that the technique is safer than conventional ultrasound methods because only one sweep is needed to produce an image.

But it may be a long time before such imaging is widely used. Stuart Campbell, Professor of Gynaecology and Obstetrics at King's College Hospital, says: "Until the research is published, we don't know if the new technique can pick up abnormalities that conventional scanning methods will miss. I very much doubt it."

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Lady Carnarvon: intensely shy and loath to talk about her royal connections, but financial pressures have persuaded her to put herself and her family in the limelight

Just good friends

When the Queen comes to stay, she shares the family roast. **Mary Riddell** meets Lady Carnarvon

FOR A time the imposing front doors of Highclere Castle stayed closed. It would be better, an aide had suggested, to shuffle the paying public through the humble rear entrance next to the tearoom.

While no member of the *nouveau-pauvre* British aristocracy is averse to offloading a cheese scone or two on the Sierra-driving masses, Lady Carnarvon remained unhappy with the new arrangement. "We tried it for a while, but it didn't sit right with us. I believe the visitors should be welcomed properly."

Meanwhile, and more remarkably, in the little house just down the drive, the Queen was parking her wellies in the small entrance hall next to the dog's bed. Later her supper would be prepared in the cramped back kitchen where the only concession to haute cuisine is a packet of Bonios by the sink.

"She can come here and know that there's no one about," Jean Carnarvon will tell you. "No, she'd never stay at the castle — always here with us. She knows her way round, and it's like home really — a sort of haven."

Much like her royal guest, the 7th Lady Carnarvon enjoys the quiet life. Charming, unpretentious and the most unlikely of chatelaines, she has remained resolutely in the background while her husband, the Queen's racing manager, has provided the front-of-house panache essential to the selling of a stately home.

But times are hard and costs astronomical. Scaffolding, as normal, obscures the castle's Gothic-Victorian splendour, and the manila envelopes pile up on the doormat. With upkeep bills alone running at £250,000 a year, slick marketing must never be underestimated. And so the financial imperative has decreed for Lady Carnarvon, an acutely shy woman, a starring role in the film of her life.

Downstairs Upstairs is a forthcoming *Network First* programme for Carlton, and she is clearly anxious. "Well, it wasn't quite what we expected. Let it be a lesson."

There was always going to be a difficulty, since Highclere is rather thin on the Downstairs.

Nevertheless she had hoped, rather optimistically, for yards of worthy footage of Lord Carnarvon accomplishing sterling work for regional planning and demonstrating to the House of Lords that hereditary peers are a jolly good thing. What seems to have emerged instead is Berkshire's belated answer to *Dynasty*.

The setting: a crumbling but fabulous stately pile. The cast: dashing heir (Geordie, Lord Porchester), glamorous younger offspring (daughter Carolyn, married to the Newmarket bloodstock agent John Warren, and Harry, married to Chica who does the food), plus, in supporting roles, assorted adorable grandchildren and world-beating racehorses. The plot: the fairy-tale marriage of the beautiful teenager from Wyoming and the man who has long been one of Her Majesty's dearest friends.

Cut and fade to the drawing-room of Lady Carnarvon's bungalow (think Palladian, not Barratts), where unframed school pictures of her grandchildren are propped on the mantelpiece below ancestral oils. She is 60 now, still beautiful, and accustomed to a life which — even by the standards of hard-pressed aristocracy — is almost schizophrenic in its contrasts.

On the one hand, there is the family fortune of £45 million and treasures including the Tutankhamunobilia accumulated (complete, legend has it, with the dead king's curse) by the 5th Earl.

On the other, there is a constant need for thrift. "Could I blow a fortune on a Valentino suit? Certainly not. I'm not in that league. I wear Marks & Spencer or buy from local boutiques in Newbury.

"Usually we'll have supper in front of the TV. I always cook unless we have people to stay." Even her green Aga, in which the Queen's roast dinners ("just what the family would be having") are prepared, was affordable only when her husband's top racehorse had a particularly fine season.

When the Queen comes to inspect her yearlings, the routine alters only slightly. The two spare bedrooms are aired, a cook brought in. "Sometimes Prince Philip comes, and in the old days Prince Charles used to visit from school, and we'd potter along the lake. I think some people might fuss, but we're not breaking new territory. We've been doing it for a very long time, you see . . ."

Brought up in Big Horn, Wyoming, Jean Wallop was 13 before she saw a town or crossed a road and 19 when she met her future husband at a London lunch party. Coffee was scarcely served before the then Lord Porchester was crossing the Atlantic to inform her fiancé that he would be marrying her instead.

Painfully self-effacing, knowing that her university career was ruined and her father heartbroken at losing her, she married in 1956. Queen Elizabeth — who was to be godmother to her elder son — was 29, three years into her reign and the figurehead of a world the new Lady Porchester found intimidating and, occasionally, repellent.

"My husband was wonderful, but for the first two years all I seemed to do was meet people. The racing world was the most daunting. The Newmarket trainers in those days were really formidable people, and to them I was just a little nothing. Even now, although my daughter lives there, and I love visiting, I get a sort of feeling in the pit of my stomach when I approach the town."

The Queen herself was distantly welcoming. "Well, it was very formal. I'd curtsy, do all the normal things. All those things were observed and still are."

As the years passed, the cultures began to overlap. Recently the Queen ended a trip to Kentucky stud farms at the three-bedroom house Lady Carnarvon keeps in the wilds of Wyoming. "My house was completely surrounded by Secret Service — so many of them that the deer all disappeared. There's a little bungalow next door, which was useful for the staff, and we all jammed in somehow."

She is loath to talk about her royal connections, scrupulous in protecting the private bolthole her family has supplied for 40 close years. "The focus on them is horrendous. It definitely is. It's got beyond the realms of anything that's really tolerable. If — like the Duke of Edinburgh — you can't even have a private phone conversation with a friend."

She has only rarely experienced such intrusion. When, as she plans to, she reads Sarah Bradford's biography of the Queen (which she is saving as a holiday book) she will come upon the old rumour — malicious, untrue and denounced as such by Bradford — that her husband was Prince Andrew's father.

It is unlikely to trouble her, for Lady Carnarvon — the outsider to the British aristocracy — has succeeded where so many of her peers have failed in creating a stable family life.

Her only sadness is that her older son, Geordie, is about to be divorced, in an echo of the collapsed marriages which have haunted the Carnarvon dynasty. When she first took over a grim, dusty, dank Highclere, the pervading atmosphere was one of neglected gloom.

"I know it sounds politically incorrect, but it hadn't had a woman in there for 50 years." Out went the dim lighting and the faded furnishings. In came pictures of her grandchildren and displays of spring bulbs.

In too came weddings and receptions, world conferences, outdoor concerts, glossy magazine promotions, in a survival model which has become the envy of the impoverished aristocracy.

Marketing herself, her marriage and her children for the TV cameras has been less tolerable. "The limelight is not my natural place, but we all have to do what we can to help."

Duty, as her favourite and equally parsimonious house-guest would agree, must prevail.

Life begins when the Aha! moment comes

WHEN the muscular, fiery-eyed Tina Turner went on tour three years ago, she proved to a generation of American women that there was not just life after menopause — there was rock 'n' roll.

When, at 45, Lauren Hutton posed for a New York fashion spread in overalls and desert boots, she too went through an epiphany on behalf of her sex: she realised you don't have to be 21 and half-naked to be beautiful and paid for it.

Such women, Gail Sheehy argues in her provocative best-seller, *New Passages*, to be published in Britain shortly, are the pioneers of a generation that is defying biology to enter a whole new phase of the human life cycle: a grown-up adventure of new careers, new passions, lively sex and carefree hedonism that she refers to as our second adulthood. Near the beginning of her book, Sheehy announces with gusto that Western women who reach 50 without suffering heart disease or cancer can now expect to live at least another 40 years. The question is how to make the most of them.

It is a burning question, not least because women celebrating their fiftieth birthdays this year are the baby boomers' vanguard. Born the year after the Second World War ended, they led the sexual revolution by trying out the Pill. They stopped taking it to have families but still fought to keep careers. Later, with the help of books like Sheehy's *The Silent Passage*, they broke down age-old taboos about the discussion and treatment of the effects of the menopause.

NOW THEY — and Sheehy — are emerging at the far end of that silent passage. She laments that they face a void. They have "no instructions for what a woman should be after she has finished making babies" and bringing them up — a task that more and more women find they have completed with fully half their lives still to live.

She protests that "research on over-fifties has concentrated on disease, widowhood, retirement, meaninglessness and impoverishment". And, in a confession of her relentlessly upbeat agenda, she declares: "It's high time we look at what goes right with us: the sources of love, purpose, fun, sexual pleasure, spiritual companionship and sustained well-being that so many people are discovering in second adulthood, much to their surprise."

The book is based on exhaustive reading and research, and is peppered with factual nuggets. For example: a million American baby-boomers are expected to reach their 100th birthdays. The over-nineties are the country's fastest growing age group. The proportion of women aged 45 to 54 who have jobs will rise by 300 per cent over the next five years. The ratio of testosterone to oestrogen in those who have completed menopause is up to 20 times higher than in those still ovulating — which, research shows, may help to account for the resurgent energy and optimism of women in their mid-to-late fifties. And so on.

But *New Passages* is really all about semantics. One of its central themes is a concerted attack on the phrase "middle age" and all its debilitating connotations. In Sheehy's world "you're not getting older" after 50, "you're getting better". The process is not ageing but "sageing".

Middle age is replaced by the age of mastery (your flaming fifties), followed by the age of integrity (your serene sixties). Depression, alcoholism or divorce in your late forties need not be the start of a long, sad slide into senility. They are merely symptoms of "middlescence": your last youthful rebellion, full of lessons in life that help you to move, at some point during your second adulthood, to "coalescence".

Sheehy's fetish for buzz-words first emerged in *Passages*, which she wrote when she was 35. That book did for early adulthood what this one does for people in their prime. But *New Passages* comes close to parodying itself with the introduction of something called the "Aha!" moment. This is unfortunate, since it turns out to be near the crux of Sheehy's thesis. She is wise enough to admit that no amount of self-help can be guaranteed to banish such ravages of ageing as illness, bereavement or loss of agility. But she insists repeatedly that the key to having fun and fulfilment despite them is a *conscious* reinvention of oneself at a particular moment, after children have flown or after resigning oneself to not having them, and usually in one's fifties. This is the Aha! moment.

For Lauren Hutton it came when her copy of *The New York Times* fell open at a photograph of someone so alluring in dungarees and desert boots that at first she didn't recognise herself. For Janet Mandaville, one of Sheehy's 500 or so interview subjects, it came at 50 when she acted on a whim for the first time in decades and went solo backpacking for eight months in the Australian outback. For Sheehy herself it came when she conquered her fear of diving through a wave off a Californian beach, and realised what her next book would be about.

BLINDING revelations are all very well. But what next? Stripped of anecdote and pop psychology, her practical advice on how to make the most of second adulthood is not strikingly original: women would do well to stop smoking, resist drinking more than two glasses of wine a day, do regular aerobic exercise and perhaps some yoga. They should consider going back to work or university or both, and stop feeling duty-bound to provide their grown-up children with bed and board.

Men, she says, can be harder to advise. To make their passages to mastery and beyond they too should give up smoking. They should learn to let go of work as the chief public measure of their worth. Above all, they should own up to creeping impotence as the main threat to their private self-esteem. They should talk it through with their partners, turning a loss into what Dr William Masters called "the privilege of exchanging vulnerabilities".

Whatever you make of such rhetoric Sheehy's basic challenge is compelling: "Will your personal life story in second adulthood be conceived as a progress story or a decline story? To a large degree *you* have the power of mind to make that choice." And if you share her indomitably sunny temperament, the rest should be a breeze. Just say "Aha!".

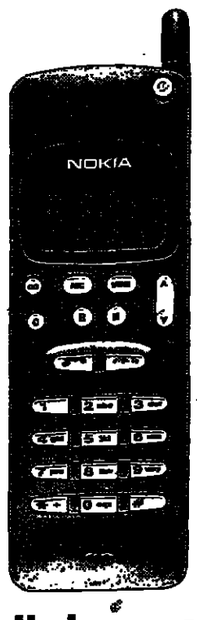


Tina Turner: second-adulthood pioneer

Giles Whittell reports from LA on a bestselling thesis for life after 50

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Matthew Parris



■ Newspapers rely on buzz-words to arouse the reader's interest — and on fuzz-words to keep it

Blurring an issue is not the prerogative of politicians, but an essential skill for journalists too. The world presents a bewildering variety of "facts": an array of potential news items practically infinite in number from which no clear pattern emerges, and to list which at random would baffle our readers. Our job, like every writer's job, is to tell a story. We seek patterns, plots, *meaning* if you like, in the world.

Much of a journalist's work therefore involves identifying possible stories, then servicing them. Once established, a story needs to be nurtured, so that the newspaper becomes a sort of serial, with daily instalments, involving a running series of plots and subplots, with a recognisable cast of characters. Otherwise (like a soap opera into which too many characters are introduced and the stories go nowhere), the audience's attention wanders.

My field, politics, presents exceptionally clear examples. We chart a leader's "rise" and "fall". We discover splits and conspiracies: We establish "strong", "weak" and "gaff-prone" characters; we divine dissent and disaffection; we purport to describe "mood" among politicians. All this requires creative writing — and I do not, by that, mean we lie; we *craft* our stories.

How? Part of a journalist's trade consists of choosing the story. But, having chosen it, he must write it in language which lends a hard edge to what may be an aimless narrative. He achieves this by a combination of buzz-words and fuzz-words. The buzz-words are notorious. "Measures" come in "packages". "Blood on the carpet" etches out the "political faultlines" . . .

Less often noticed are the fuzz-words. These are the nuts and bolts which seem to hold a story together. Their purpose is to imply some *linkage* between events occurring to different people in different places at different times. The problem is that this linkage is not always obvious, may not exist at all, and is in any case difficult to prove. Unlike children's storytellers we are supposed to be reporting reality. But reality is unreportable, so the challenge is, while appearing to report, to draw readers into an inference, without ourselves making the claim, pushing a story forward while leaving open a means of retreat in case of a challenge. There is a stableful of key words, phrases and images essential to this task.

The simplest way is to state a chronological relationship between events, and to imply by this a causal one — *but without stating it*. "After a series of embarrassing attacks on his leadership, Tony Blair yesterday sought to regain the initiative in a speech . . ."

The art here is in the words "after", "series", "embarrassing" and "regain". "After" suggests (but does not state) that the attacks prompted the speech. They may not have. "Series" suggests (but does not state) that the attacks are linked, part of a "story" of discontent. There may be no such linkage. "Embarrassing" implies (but does not state) that Mr Blair was embarrassed. He may not have been. "Regain" suggests (but does not state) that the initiative had been lost. That is a matter of opinion.

But it is the "after" here which is critical to the linkage which forms the story's mainspring. Of course everything happens either after, before or at the *same time as everything* else. Pointing this out is either meaningless or tendentious. "Following" and "in the wake [or "aftermath"] of", like "poised to" or "on the eve of", are heavily relied upon for the same effect. Most common of all is "as": "As John Major struggled to reassert . . . Bill Cash yesterday claimed . . ." The implication may or may not be true, but the journalist seeks to keep both his bun and his ha'penny by subliminally inviting his *reader to make* the inference, without hazarding it as the newspaper's own opinion.

> Journalists may well need these devices, but readers should know about them too

The second means by which we imply a pattern or linkage is by insinuating not chronological but spatial relationships. Facts "together with" other facts are reported. Individuals are "at the centre of" (or "linked to") events, which then "spiral" or form part of a "downward spiral". Setbacks are part of a "rash" or "outbreak". Demands come in "choruses". Gains are part of a "pattern" of success.

Thirdly there is a journalistic staple, the *implied dynamic*. Key words here include "wave", "growing", "mounting", "increasing", "rocketing", "spreading", "heightened", "falling" and "plummeting". To read our prose, you might imagine that the future really comes in waves — whereas, as someone once observed, it comes on little cat's feet. But the wave is vital to newspapermen, for the wave *is* the story. It provides for follow-up stories. It creates a memorable image out of what may be no more than the observation that something has happened twice or more. Heightening public interest in a phenomenon makes it more reportable. So further examples are reported and the story *causes* a wave — not of instances, but of reports. I doubt whether a political journalist can avoid recourse to these devices. But devices they are. Readers should be aware of them.

If the IRA really wants a united Ireland, it should not have blown apart the nationalist coalition

Isle of Dogs may be the IRA's Waterloo

William Rees-Mogg

From a political point of view the IRA bomb in east London is an extraordinary blunder as well as an extraordinary crime. Three days ago the nationalist position was stronger than at any time in the present troubles. The issue was whether the Unionists could be brought to negotiate without preconditions other than mere verbal assurances. The skilful political leadership of Gerry Adams had created almost a united front on this issue which included Sinn Fein, the SDLP, the Irish Government, Senator Mitchell and the American Government. The Unionists and the British Government had already been forced to concede talks without any prior decommissioning of terrorist arms. They had put forward a counter-proposal of elections before talks. Even this had been attacked by the Irish Government and criticised in Washington. The pressure was still on. Even in Britain, public opinion showed a growing feeling that preconditions ought not to stand in the way of early talks.

The bomb has reversed all this. The IRA barely even informed Sinn Fein in advance that it was going to end the ceasefire. Whatever Sinn Fein does now, it can no longer speak for the IRA. Three days ago there was a united demand for early talks, supported by the whole coalition that Gerry Adams had put together. Now the nationalist front is completely broken. The Irish and American Governments have reverted to a hardline anti-terrorist position. The suspicions of the Unionists and the British Government have been publicly justified. The IRA has lost its *whole political dimension by demonstrating* its contempt for Sinn Fein. The Unionists are no longer under any pressure to make concessions. Indeed the Unionists are the only beneficiaries, not from the bombing but from the nationalist debacle.

The public does not have any idea who decided to resume the bombing. We can see Gerry Adams and Martin McGuinness, but they are the leaders who were repudiated. Who were the leaders who thought that a bomb in east London was better than a coalition of nationalist sympathy which stretched from Dublin to the White House? How do their minds work? There were two contrasting public opinions in Ireland which may have influenced the IRA leaders. On the one hand, there were some Irish nationalists who thought the peace process was simply a postponement operation by the British. They argued that words were not getting anywhere, so it would be better to go back to bombs. No doubt that feeling was widespread in the IRA itself, both north and south of the border. Perhaps some of these people had not wanted the ceasefire in the first place. They certainly did not understand the success of Gerry Adams's diplomacy.

The IRA leaders may have been even more worried by the very popularity of the ceasefire, particularly among the Roman Catholics of Northern Ireland. Indeed many Northern Ireland Catholics, particularly *in the middle class*, have by now become covert Unionists. They want peace far more than they want a united Ireland; many of them do not want a united Ireland at all. To the IRA men, the peace process may have threatened to bring about long-term Catholic acquiescence in the Union: they may also have felt that peace would make the IRA itself redundant. It would offer a role for Sinn Fein, but not for them. They may well have been jealous of Gerry Adams, negotiating on behalf of their power base.

In their previous bombing campaign in London, the IRA had stumbled on an economic target which it must have been tempted to hit again. The older London, down to the buildings of the 1950s, is solid. When the car bomb was detonated outside Harrods, it killed some passers-by, but the damage to the Harrods building was soon repaired at moderate cost. From the 1960s onwards, the most important new buildings were constructed of what Lord Curzon called "brass and glass". A bomb could blow out the glass and distort the framework, so that the cost of repair was close to that of replacement. £1,000-worth of explosive can do £100 million of damage, a high return on the terrorist investment. Since London has been a terrorist target throughout the period of most of this new building, it was very imprudent architecture; it has given the IRA an almost unlimited supply of vulnerable high-value targets.

There may also be people in the IRA who did believe in the peace process, but thought it needed a jolt, to remind everyone of what the IRA could do. A few weeks of spectacular terror, followed by another ceasefire, would from its point of view be the best way to force the British Government to the negotiating table. The nationalist coalition could then be reassembled, and it would be argued that the new opportunity should be taken quickly, because the British had been too slow to take the old one.

This is at least a rational calculation, but it overlooks the one factor that always is being overlooked. The great mistake of the nationalists is to think that they are ultimately dealing with the British Government. They are not. They are dealing with the Protestant community of Northern Ireland. Of course concessions could be wrung out of Downing Street, if the Unionists were willing to make them. The British Government might conceivably be bombed to the conference table; the Unionists cannot be.

There is only one way for the nationalists to get the Protestants into a united Ireland, and that is to woo them. It is true that the Ulster Protestants would probably play a greater role in a united Ireland than they do in the United Kingdom. They are probably the tougher and better educated community; they could well dominate much of Irish life, particularly in business. As the strength of the Catholic Church declines in the South, northern Protestants might prefer to be important in Ireland rather than to go on being relatively unimportant in Britain. I doubt if that is what most nationalists want: they love the old Celtic Catholic culture, which is already losing to the urban modernism of the new Ireland, as the referendum on divorce showed. Add the Protestant modernism of the North and the old Ireland would be decisively outweighed. The border has come to be more of a protection than a threat to the old Celtic Catholic culture.

That piles paradox on paradox. The IRA survives because it fits into ancient Irish myths of oppression, rebellion and bloodshed. Its purpose is to unite Ireland, but Ireland can only be united, if it ever is, by a process in which peace is the first step and persuasion the second. The Protestants have to be persuaded that a united Ireland would be a better home for them than a rather cold and distant United Kingdom. The great obstacle to this process, either of peace or persuasion, is the IRA, which has even now destroyed the strongest nationalist coalition of modern Irish history. Yet if Ireland were united, the old Celtic Catholic Ireland would inevitably lose out to the new modern and partly post-Christian Ireland of Dublin and Belfast. Subjectively, the IRA wants to unite Ireland; objectively, it keeps Ireland divided. Subjectively, a united Ireland would be a victory for the Gaelic myth; objectively it would destroy Gaelic Ireland.

At young Malcolm's feet

Peter Riddell on the prospect of White Papering over the Tories' Euro-divisions



Malcolm Rifkind wants to be the great unifier of the Conservative Party over Europe. His vehicle will be the White Paper due early next month on the Government's approach to the inter-governmental conference (IGC). This may, and should, confirm a new Tory consensus on Europe, but will it represent a credible negotiating position for Britain? Ever since the Maastricht battles of three years ago, these two aims have been in conflict.

Mr Rifkind is in an easier position than his predecessor. Douglas Hurd sought to be the reasonable man in an unreasonable world. But he was frustrated, if never quite defeated, by the fissiparous tendencies of his party. That is why Mr Hurd last year opposed a White Paper on Europe, for fear that it would exacerbate Tory divisions. Now, in more harmonious circumstances, Mr Rifkind favours one because it may demonstrate unity. He is keen to appear as the conciliator, building bridges to reach loyalist sceptics such as Sir Michael Spicer's European Research Group. Mr Rifkind welcomed John Redwood's statement last week about the White Paper, not because he agrees with all the detailed proposals, but for its more constructive tone, accepting that Britain's future is in the European Union. Some of Mr Redwood's allies were annoyed that at the launch news conference Bill Cash blurred this positive impression with typically uncompromising remarks.

But Mr Rifkind's sceptical tone has annoyed some pro-European ministers who used to regard him as an ally. They suspect him of shifting last year so as to make himself a more broadly acceptable Foreign Secretary, and now to boost his chances in any future leadership battle. His odds are improving in these stakes, although he is still disliked by the keepers of the Thatcher flame for alleged unreliability and inconsistency in her later years. In his defence, he claims that as the British representative in the mid 1980s on the Dooge committee which preceded the Single European Act, he opposed a single currency, greater powers for the European Parliament and more majority voting.

Nonetheless, the White Paper is unlikely to satisfy hardline sceptics. It will pull together existing statements and conclude with, in the words of one minister, some of the "vision thing". It may, therefore, seem bland. But more important is the attempt to lower expectations, to avoid laying down demands for repatriation of powers which the sceptics would like but which are, in practice, unachievable. The White Paper will not discuss monetary union, where Mr Rifkind favours keeping open Britain's options since he wants to retain influence on a decision which could have a profound impact on the country.

The official line on the IGC is low-key: there is nothing Britain desperately needs. There is no big wish-list. There are some changes we would like, such as the creation of an appeals mechanism in the European Court of Justice and limitation of the retrospective impact of its rulings where there has been no blatant intention to flout directives, as in the case of the pregnant servicewomen. The Government wants to change the balance of voting on the Council of Ministers, to alter the six-monthly presidency system to favour larger states, and to give national parliaments more say in the preparation of European legislation.

The Government opposes significant changes in qualified majority voting and in the powers of the European Parliament (except in controlling the Commission), and is strongly against any attempt to move away from an inter-governmental approach to foreign, justice and immigration policies, or any undermining of Nato's central role in European defence.

The Labour Party agrees much more with the Tories than it does with other European left-of-centre parties on such matters as defence and border controls. Apart from the social chapter opt-out, the two parties differ mainly over Labour's support for an extension of qualified majority voting on social, environmental and regional issues. The gulf is far narrower than either party pretends. If there is a Blair government, other European countries might be surprised to hear many familiar British objections expressed by new Labour ministers. It might be akin to the Potsdam Conference in 1945, when Attlee replaced Churchill in the middle of proceedings, but, to Stalin's evident displeasure, there was no real change of policy.

The main change if Labour won would be in attitude and language, and perhaps in the room for manoeuvre in negotiation. By contrast, the forthcoming White Paper may not leave ministers with sufficient flexibility to reach agreement. In the short term, these tactics suit John Major and Mr Rifkind. If Britain has no urgent demands, it is also in no hurry to complete the IGC. Delay would keep the sceptics quiet before the election.

But this is not sustainable. Germany and France may not want an ambitious Maastricht Two, but they regard the IGC as a necessary first step to far more important questions of EU enlargement and monetary union. While there has been much smugness in London over the recent doubts in Germany about the timetable for monetary union, no one should underestimate Chancellor Kohl's determination to press ahead. Meanwhile, even preliminary talks on enlargement cannot start until the IGC is over.

The IGC is a distraction from these central issues and from the need to re-establish public confidence in the European Union. In theory, it should not be hard to compromise in the IGC on minor institutional adjustments to qualified majority voting and the like, but the Major Government does not look like being able to agree even small changes, such is the internal Tory opposition to any concessions. In that respect, the White Paper may be more of a Tory party concordat than a realistic long-term plan for Britain's European policy. Mr Rifkind's success in achieving the former may only defer decisions on the latter. Britain seems condemned never to resolve its relationship with the rest of Europe.

Top counsel

LORD LONGFORD, the nonagenarian who has long campaigned on behalf of Myra Hindley, has taken up a new cause. He has been devoting his energies to Kevin Maxwell, who was last month cleared of fraud charges after giving evidence for more than 70 hours.

The other day, Longford entertained Kevin, his wife Pandora and his counsel, Alun Jones, QC, to a celebratory lunch at a discreet Polish restaurant in Kensington. The acquittal was celebrated with occasional snaps of vodka, and Longford pledged his commitment to helping Maxwell through his next ordeal — the fresh prosecution by the Serious Fraud Office described by Pandora as the "last lash of the dragon's tail".

There was one absentee from the lunch, however. Lady Longford, the royal biographer, had tripped on a pavement that morning. She fell on her face and felt unable to attend. "I didn't want to frighten anybody. I look like a Tamil Tiger with two furious black eyes. It's perfectly menacing."



Pandora and Kevin

Name game

LORD HOWE of Aberavon revists Chevening this week on Radio 4's *Going Places*, and takes its listeners on a guided tour of the house. A nostalgic programme, its most poignant moment comes when Howe points out some trees in the garden.

"There are three trees we planted in honour of our first ministerial dog, so to speak," he says with a lump in his throat. "Budget was the dog I had when I was Chancellor of the Exchequer. Sadly, he was killed *not long after we came here*, and there are trees in his memory."

He adds that the plaque doesn't record the result of a competition run by Marcia Falkender in a national newspaper for the best name for a Foreign Office dog, as opposed to a Treasury dog. "She was mischievous enough to give the prize to someone who called it Fudge It," says Howe sadly. "But we called it Summit instead."

Hat trick

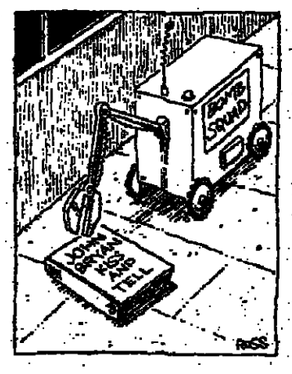
PRINCE EDWARD'S girlfriend, Sophie Rhys-Jones, attracted admiring glances at a society wedding in London on Saturday on account of her hat, a wide-brimmed felt affair with a distinctive red, green and purple-striped band.

But as guests of Damian Riley-Smith and his bride Pippa were leaving the church, she noticed somebody else wearing exactly the same titfer. She nudged the Prince to point out the sartorial *faux pas*, drew her hand to her mouth in mock horror — and then convulsed into giggles behind her Order of Service.

No tears

AS I mentioned last week, Teresa Gorman is less than pleased about the reference to her in Edwina Currie's desperate bonkbuster as a "benign little granny", and she retaliated insult for insult.

But Teresa does not appear to be alone in finding Edwina's Pepsident smile a little hard to stomach.



Just testing

A SEVERE blow to learner drivers comes in a bulletin from Scotland, where an Aberdeen publisher, Keith Murray, has finally given up the struggle after 35 attempts to pass his test.

One might have thought that after some 1,450 lessons and £9,000 spent trying to learn to drive over the past decade, he would be in with a chance. But he says he will not be filling in a 36th test application form. "I really don't think I could take another disappointment," says Keith. "I'm a nervous person at the best of times and I just couldn't handle doing my test with someone sitting beside me watching my every move."

He claims that fate conspired against him from the start. In his first test, ten years ago, he ended up following a hearse back to the test centre. "I knew it was a bad omen — I just didn't realise quite how bad."

Evening job

IT MUST HAVE been the spectacular stage lighting at the English National Opera's impressive *Tristan and Isolde* on Saturday, I could have sworn that the Duchess of York had found employment as a diva.

Her statuesque figure appeared to glide serenely across stage, Titian hair falling gently about her shoulders and tragedy unfolding all around as she upset the operatic King Mark.

ENO claims that Isolde's mellifluous voice was that of the renowned soprano Elizabeth Connell — but could it not have been a cash-strapped Duchess singing for her supper?



Are they by any chance related? The Duchess and Connell

DIARY

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THEMSELVES ALONE

Democrats should talk to each other, not the IRA

The human and financial cost of the Docklands bomb is still being counted. The way forward politically through the wreckage of the peace process remains unclear. But the need to reaffirm certain key principles has never been clearer.

The first is a straightforward refusal to engage in talks with a terrorist organisation actively prosecuting a murderous campaign. John Bruton, the Irish Prime Minister, has made it clear that Sinn Fein cannot expect to get a word in his ear, let alone a place at any table, until there is a complete cessation of violence. It would be unthinkable if Sinn Fein representatives could continue to press their case in Dublin Castle drawing rooms while their comrades in arms sought to exact further concessions by physical force.

The resumption of the armed struggle by the IRA is a clear signal that the republican movement still, in its heart, believes that violence is the way to secure its end. For those who hoped to habituate Sinn Fein to democratic politics and all its attendant compromises, it is an uncomfortable thought that the men with real power in republican ranks still regard the bomb as the most effective solution to any argument.

Those nationalists, including members of the Irish Government, who are inclined to blame British intransigence for the IRA return to violence should reflect on how little the republican mind has seemed to alter after nearly 18 months of peace. What if Britain had called all-party talks? What if, by some miracle, Unionists who had seen their constituents slaughtered by a criminal conspiracy had sat at the same table with the still-armed apologists for those atrocities? Can anyone now be in doubt what would be the republican reaction to a settlement that fell short of their goal? If simple impatience with the pace of movement towards talks can trigger a renewal of bombing, the IRA would certainly not have balked at returning to violence if the talks themselves did not go its way. The IRA still believes that the overtures which led to talks with the British began with the success of the bombing campaign in the City. It has still to learn that violence does not pay.

The best way of reinforcing that message is to try to bind together all those with an interest in seeing democracy determine Northern Ireland's future. Although he remains cool towards the idea of an elected peace convention in Ulster, Mr Bruton should be encouraged to explore how common ground can be found between London and Dublin as well as democrats north and south.

Some nationalists argue that the Irish Government should keep talking to Sinn Fein. They are playing the IRA's game, giving licence to its programme of political and military advance. Constitutional nationalists should instead work towards agreement with the Unionist majority in Ulster, seeking mechanisms which can build institutional stability and safeguard the liberties of minorities. The Unionists have a role to play. Moderate Irish opinion is sickened by the IRA's actions but uncertain how to proceed. Rather than allow Sinn Fein's allies to make the running, Unionists should signal their readiness to talk to those in Dublin willing to see democracy entrenched in Ulster.

When the political path seems blocked there is always a temptation to fall back on a pure security solution. The Cabinet, rightly, spent much of last night reviewing what new measures must be taken: Dublin could also, with profit, move against the terrorists who continue to operate within its jurisdiction. But security measures alone will not solve the underlying causes of conflict. Terrorists must realise that the armed security forces on the streets express an iron political will to advance by democratic means and to resolve disagreements by politics. The IRA should be reminded that the future of Ulster is a matter for the people of the Province and their elected representatives and that this will not alter under threat of violence. If politicians in London, Dublin, Washington and Belfast can work together to uphold those principles, then there may yet be hope amid the rubble.

WARM ECONOMIC FRONT

Cheerful government forecasts are not wishful thinking

When the Government publishes its monthly unemployment and inflation figures this week, both are likely to be moving in the right direction — downwards. Ministers will declare that Britain now has the healthiest economy in Europe. Yet in the City, dozens of companies have given warning of disappointing profits; rarely a day passes without hundreds of new redundancies. For once, it is likely to be politicians rather than businessmen who offer the more reliable picture.

When they unveil their profits, company chairmen are, by definition, looking back at the past year's performance. But for 1996, some much more encouraging trends can clearly be discerned. Not only are the economic statistics showing improvement, but the elusive factor of confidence seems to be coming back. Gallup and MORI surveys last week, both of which showed modest swings of support back to the Tories, also revealed that consumers are becoming more confident about their financial future, less pessimistic about the state of the economy and less insecure about their jobs. Meanwhile the European Commission's Eurobarometer survey of business opinion published last week showed Britain as the only major economy in Europe where business confidence was now climbing.

On their own, these statistical indicators are no more than straws in the wind. Statistics can deceive almost as easily as enlighten. In 1990, the Treasury convinced itself on the basis of monthly statistics that there was no threat of a recession. A year ago, the Governor of the Bank of England was demanding higher interest rates: some carefully selected monthly statistics supported his idiosyncratic proposition that Britain was threatened by an inflationary boom. Statistics must be set in the context of world economic conditions and the policies of governments and central banks at home and abroad. Fortunately, this context is steadily improving.

In Britain, interest rates are falling, the tax burden is modestly easing, employment is growing, albeit slowly, and wages are rising comfortably — but not yet alarmingly — faster than the rate of inflation. Two accidental financial factors in 1996 could even produce a mild consumer boom before the year is out: maturing tax exempt special savings accounts (Tessas) and windfalls from building society mergers will unlock some £35 billion — equivalent to 5 per cent of gross domestic product — in the next 18 months. Even if 80 per cent of this money were reinvested and only 20 per cent were spent, the addition to consumer demand in the next 12 months would be worth about 1 per cent of GDP — the equivalent of a one-off reduction of 3p in the standard rate of tax.

The news from abroad is, at first sight, less cheerful. While the American and Japanese economies are almost certainly poised for a decent recovery, Britain's key export markets in Germany and France could well be on the brink of serious recessions. Yet even in Europe, the deflationary ice seems to be breaking. In France public opinion seems to have moved against the dangerous policies adopted in the name of EMU. In Germany, the Bundesbank is showing signs of genuine alarm about the economic damage it has caused in the past year. In both countries, interest rates are at or near record low levels — and further reductions almost certainly lie ahead. Thus even the British businesses which depend on exports to Europe have good reasons to hope that 1996 will prove a better year than 1995.

DELICIOUS CULTURE

Why French children must learn how to eat

"I live," that great wordsmith Molière has one of his characters say, "on good soup, not fine words." It must have been a slip of the pen. In no country could this distinction be more artificial, or less apposite, than in France. Since at least the time of Rabelais, ideas and food have gone together in France as nowhere else. No tables rival the French restaurateur's for variety, subtlety, constantly inventive skill — and commercial acumen. The language of gastronomy, free-market ambassador for France's claims to cultural distinctiveness, speeds French ideas across the globe far more effectively than its subsidised cinematic historical blockbusters can.

A France out of sympathy with Escoffier or the *cassoulet* would be cut loose from its history. It is hard to imagine any Frenchman saying, with Molière's near-contemporary, Swift, "I value not your bill of fare, give me your bill of company." But the food of the child maketh the taste of the grown man — witness the Spotted Dick of London clubs; and French children are coming to be more averse to garlic or *boeuf à la mode* than many an infant Mancunian.

A mere generation ago, a cockerel was to be seen elegantly perched on the back of a chair at a venerable Left Bank brasserie. This overgrown Easter chicken had joined the family at table to peck at a salad and sip from a wine glass. Beside the bird, his seven-year-old mistress followed her *celeri remoulade* with two classics invented on the field of battle by French chefs: *sauté de veau Marengo* and *pommes soufflées*. Today, the cockerel's presence would doubtless breach hygiene regulations. Worse still, even if the grown-up child's daughter did not insist on being taken to a takeaway hamburger or pizza joint, she would demand *steack frites*.

It is therefore good news that the French are starting to fight the craze for *le fast food* — and in a manner befitting the masters of the omelette, the finest fast food in the world. British teachers may be reduced to emphasising "healthy" diets in schools; but in France, food is something to celebrate.

When French chefs tour schools to arouse children's curiosity about forgotten tastes and traditions, they give lessons in national excellence — and also in the virtues of the proud individualism which, de Gaulle used to complain, make the French ungovernable. Food is the Frenchman's riposte to the heavy hand of the bureaucrat, national or European. When he sided with French cooks against Brussels over unpasteurised cheese, the Prince of Wales did more for the *entente cordiale* than a trainload of diplomats. May French cooks of the future continue to repay a royal compliment, royally deserved.

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

1 Pennington Street, London E1 9XN Telephone 0171-782 5000

Damage done to Irish peace hopes

From Sir David Mitchell, MP for Hampshire North West (Conservative)

Sir, The tragic events of last week (reports, article and leading article, February 10) bring into the open a question I have been asking myself for some time. Do the IRA (or perhaps it should now be did they) ever want the peace process to move forward?

Why else did they refuse to make even a token reduction in their weaponry? Why should they want to reach the democratic institutions towards which the peace process inevitably led? Why should they want to exchange centre stage for 10 per cent of a democratic mandate?

It seems a reasonable assumption that it was the prospect of an increasing tempo in the peace process which led them to opt out and opt for violence.

In Belfast last week, after an absence of some months, one could really feel the optimism and the dramatic improvement in the quality of life as both sides of the sectarian divide enjoyed the peace dividend. The best hope for the future of all who live in the island of Ireland is that the nationalist community gives no help and no refuge to those the police and Garda are now seeking.

Sadly yours,
DAVID MITCHELL
(Northern Ireland Minister, 1980-83),
House of Commons.
February 11.

From Mr M. Brooks

Sir, It must be obvious to anyone that a campaign of terror offers no solution to the problems of Northern Ireland. Every atrocity perpetrated by the IRA diminishes rather than enhances the prospect of their ever achieving the united Ireland for which they claim to strive. The London bombing is a futile act, achieving nothing more than the suffering of innocent civilians.

Nevertheless, this latest outrage presented Mr Gerry Adams with an unparalleled opportunity to condemn such wanton acts of terrorism and dissociate himself from them. Such a condemnation would have reinforced his credentials as a democratic politician and done something to reassure his political opponents in Northern Ireland that there is indeed a real and important distinction to be drawn between Sinn Fein and the IRA.

That instead he chose to express mere "sadness" at the bombing and blamed the British Government for it reveals him in his true colours. The political initiatives of the last 18 months have been based on the premise that Sinn Fein is an authentic political party capable of committing itself to the democratic process and eschewing support for violence. This now appears to have been false.

Until the British and Irish Governments face up to this unpalatable and depressing fact there will be no real progress towards the achievement of a long-term solution to the Northern Ireland problem.

Yours sincerely,
M. BROOKS,
Ty Newydd,
Nr Cowbridge, South Glamorgan.
February 10.

From Mrs V. M. Crews

Sir, The one statesmanlike act of John Major's premiership has, in my view, been his attempt to bring peace to Ulster.

Alas, because of his small majority, he could not afford to offend the Ulster Unionists and lose their support in the House of Commons.

The result: after 17 months still no round-table all-party talks in spite of the best efforts of Eire and the United States.

The best hope of peace in Ulster has been lost because John Major was, in the end, only a party-political leader and not a statesman.

Yours etc,
V. M. CREWS,
1 Delfield Close, Beckenham, Kent.
February 9.

The Scott inquiry

From Mrs Monica Wilson

Sir, As a concerned and interested member of the public, I spent three days early in 1994 at the Scott inquiry (reports, February 8, 9; interview, February 10).

Two things struck me forcibly: the extreme courtesy and patience shown to witnesses, who were never hurried, harried or disparaged, and the apparent unease of public servants, who seemed unwilling to be questioned about their actions.

On each occasion I went home convinced that setting up the inquiry had been one of the best decisions the Prime Minister had made. I came to the conclusion that some of those who govern us have little respect for us and make it difficult for the whole truth to be uncovered: but I also concluded that the criticisms and recommendations eventually proposed by the inquiry were likely to make such attitudes unacceptable in the future and that we might well be on the threshold of a fundamental change in the conduct of public life.

I hope I shall not be proved wrong.

Yours etc,
MONICA WILSON,
6 Gareway Road, W2.
February 10.

Hard decisions on the countryside

From Professor J. B. Cullingworth

Sir, The statement of unity on protecting the countryside by the three main party leaders (letter, February 9) is appealing to all who value the beauty of the English countryside, but the historical parallel is more potent than the three party leaders probably realise.

The earlier statement by Baldwin, MacDonald and Lloyd George was followed by development in the countryside on a massive scale: over two million houses were built in the following 11 years, with little regard to their surroundings or their impact. Despite major planning legislation, little effective action was taken to prevent this until the introduction of comprehensive land use controls under the Town and Country Planning Acts, in particular those of 1943, 1944 and 1947. These controls have been highly effective in controlling the urbanisation of the countryside.

We are now faced with the need to build a similar number of houses. Where are they to go? Some can be built in the existing cities (given the use of land acquisition powers and adequate funding for clearance and infrastructure). More can be built by the expansion of country towns and villages, though experience shows that this frequently leads to an increase in commuting by private car.

The majority of the houses will need to be built either on the edge of present urban areas or in new settlements. The powers exist, but they are predominantly being used to stop development, not to channel it to the most efficient locations.

The Council for the Protection of Rural England (who have achieved a real publicity scoop by persuading the party leaders to sign their letter) is vociferous in its opposition to what it sees as a threat to the countryside from excessive housing development and as a preoccupation with statistical methods of projecting household formation.

Every proposal for new development brings forth opposition of this kind, not only from the CPRE, but also from the residents of the areas where major new settlements could be developed. The town and country planning legislation is a godsend to those seeking to protect their own local interests — and MPs and ministers feel compelled to support them.

What is needed is a positive policy of promoting new towns in areas where the advantages of location, public transport and environmental quality can be maximised. Such developments will inevitably destroy some countryside values. The resolution of this conflict will require hard decisions and difficult choices between the goals of adequate housing and the preservation of areas of beautiful countryside.

Yours faithfully,
J. B. CULLINGWORTH,
University of Cambridge,
Department of Land Economy,
19 Silver Street, Cambridge.
February 9.

Judges' role in sentencing debate

From Mr Hugh Mooney

Sir, I cannot accept Mr Neville Goldrein's view of the respective roles of politicians and judges in matters of sentencing (letter, February 3).

I suggest that Parliament and the judiciary are not so separate as Mr Goldrein makes out. The Lord Chancellor is both a judge and a Cabinet minister. The top judges are made life peers, as are members of our law-making Parliament. They have a right and duty to speak out.

The mandatory life sentence for murder is an anomaly which should be ended, not extended. The sentence of the court, reached after a public trial and hearing of evidence, is surely to be preferred to a decision taken in secret long after the event by the Home Secretary and civil servants, who may be swayed by political and financial considerations.

If Mr Goldrein really thinks that the politicians and judges should stick to their own lasts, then it would be more logical for him to urge the Home Secretary not to meddle with sentencing and trust the judges to use their discretion. Justice will be better served.

Yours faithfully,
HUGH MOONEY,
1 Anchor Cottage, Prickwillow Road,
Isleham, Ely, Cambridgeshire.

From Dr A. T. H. Smith

Sir, It is a great pity that, when the judges exercise the greater freedom of speech permitted to them by the current Lord Chancellor when he relaxed the Kilmuir rules, it should be denigrated by a senior MP as (according to the headline to a report in your earlier editions today) "sniping".

The judges are making a contribution to the debate about a matter in which they have considerable expertise. Their view is entitled to an airing: they are not seeking to make law, but openly to contribute their experience to the law-making process.

What could be more sensible than that? Would Sir Ivan Lawrence, QC, have them return to their inscrutable purdah?

Yours faithfully,
A. T. H. SMITH,
Gonville and Caius College,
Cambridge.
February 6.

From Mrs Sheila Faith

Sir, I was a member of the Parole Board for several years and at the last AGM which I attended in 1994, I was one of those present who told the Home Secretary of the concern felt about certain cases where the board had no alternative but to allow the release of prisoners if they were coming to the end of a sentence, even when psychiatric and other reports indicated there was still an element of risk. Thankfully this applies to only a very small number of cases but nevertheless it causes much anxiety.

At present only those prisoners serving "life sentences" can be detained on grounds of public safety.

I can therefore well understand why the Home Secretary is proposing that anyone who commits rape or carries out a violent crime for a second time should be given a so-called life sentence, so that in future they would fall into the category of those who are only released at their annual review when all the safety criteria have been taken into account.

Yours etc,
SHEILA FAITH,
11 Merlin House,
Oak Hill Park,
Hampstead, NW3.
February 6.

From Mr Anthony Amstell

Sir, Having served as a magistrate in a number of countries with minimum sentences for some crimes (eg, in Botswana, where 10 years is the minimum for some drug offences), I have no doubt that such sentences are counter-productive.

More often than not, when I had a case where the defendant was guilty but clearly did not deserve anything like the full minimum sentence, I felt obliged to acquit. This, as I saw it, was the only way of avoiding a gross and quite frightening injustice.

I believe that if the Home Secretary's proposal for minimum sentences were to be implemented we would frequently be faced with the same kind of jury acquittals which used to occur in murder cases prior to the abolition of capital punishment.

Yours faithfully,
ANTHONY AMSTELL,
10 Rowan Close,
Sway, Lymington, Hampshire.

A new royal yacht

From Mr C. Harker

Sir, The idea of combining the function of a royal yacht and a sail training ship into one vessel to act as an ambassador for this country is most exciting.

I accept, as Rear-Admiral Bawtreee states in Libby Purves's article (Weekend, February 3; see also letter, February 8), that the vessel must be "a zenith of good design", but we must not reject the design for square rigged sailing ships reached at the end of the 19th century.

Just look at the *Cutty Sark*, or the iron square riggers built on the Clyde in the 1880s. Those of us who sail and maintain Thames barges, smacks and bawleys here on the East Coast know that today you may successfully use the materials and constructional methods of the 20th century to maintain the ships of the 19th century.

However, if you impose 20th-century thinking upon 19th-century design you end up producing a hybrid which is pleasing to neither modernist nor purist, and certainly does no credit to our maritime heritage.

Yours faithfully,
C. HARKER,
9 Sandringham Court,
Ipswich Road, Norwich, Norfolk.

From Mr Michael Hill

Sir, It is less than six years to the Queen's Golden Jubilee. What better way to celebrate it and to demonstrate the warmth, affection and respect in which she is held by the vast majority of her people than for an appeal to be launched to pay for a new royal yacht?

Even for those who do not support the monarchy, what better way to show that we, as a people, believe in ourselves.

Yours faithfully,
MICHAEL HILL,
Fulwood Park Lodge, Liverpool 17.

From Mr John Crookshank

Sir, I hope Libby Purves's proposal becomes reality in due course. My sole quibble with her article is the remark that the existing *Britannia* lies "unused against a wall in Portsmouth for five months a year".

In her first 40 years the Royal Yacht steamed well over a million sea miles and undertook 1,021 missions from state visits (84) to fleet reviews (8) and including 50 commercial days.

Time spent at Portsmouth over this amazingly sustained career has been largely in a dry dock to keep her in a condition to maintain such a career or in preparing for the next mission.

Yours sincerely,
JOHN CROOKSHANK,
Ivy House,
North Street, Westbourne,
Emsworth, Hampshire.

Letters for publication may be faxed to 0171-782 5046.

Threat to Taiwan's new democracy

From Ms Hui-Chuan Wang

Sir, It is heartening to read your leading article ("Stand by Taiwan", February 6) which condemns unequivocally China's aggressive behaviour towards Taiwan.

It often seems to me that attention paid to Taiwan in this country focuses only on its economic success. However, democracy is more precious than the rate of economic growth. After decades under martial law, Taiwanese people are now enjoying the sweetness of freedom of speech.

This new-found freedom is being eagerly pursued in order to right the wrongs of the past. The aboriginal people of Taiwan, for example, are campaigning to save their languages and traditions and to combat discrimination. Women, workers, environmentalists, the disabled and many other groups are speaking up for changes in legislation. But just as we begin to have a taste of freedom, we are threatened by a more ruthless authoritarian regime.

The West seems to regard the divide between Taiwan and China mainly as a continuation of the feud between Chiang Kai-shek and Mao Tse-tung. But the divide goes deeper than that. Taiwan has not been ruled by Peking since 1895, when the island was ceded to Japan.

No one can deny that half a century of Japanese colonisation left indelible marks in many aspects of Taiwanese society. However much China likes to refer to itself as the "motherland", the Taiwanese have been apart from China for a very long time: our ancestors began to come to the island in the second half of the 17th century.

Taiwan has as good a case for seeking independence as Australia for becoming a republic.

Yours faithfully,
HUI-CHUAN WANG,
14 Cavendish Road, NW6.
February 6.

Healthy language

From Mr Richard Kaberry

Sir, Professor Jean Aitchison's Reith Lecture ("Why a healthy language has to sometimes break the rules", February 7) makes the correct, if not entirely original point, that language should be described rather than prescribed. But in advocating the relaxation of rigid rules she seems to imply that there is no such thing as "right" and "wrong" usage.

If a primary purpose of language is to get others to accurately understand what we wish to convey, then using a technically incorrect form that is nevertheless semantically crystal clear (such as "different to") is something we should perhaps worry less about.

However, I wonder how Professor Aitchison would view the use of "continuous", when "continual" is meant? Or would she query the use of "infer" if she suspected that "imply" was meant? Such blurring of words with different meanings impoverishes the language, leaving one meaning where there were two and, more importantly, diminishing understanding. Such concerns are not merely pedantic.

Whilst we should applaud the general tenor of Professor Aitchison's approach, it would be regrettable if we came away with the impression that anything goes. There is still a place for teaching and advocating "good" usage.

Yours faithfully,
RICHARD KABERRY,
15 Dorrington Road, Sale, Cheshire.
February 7.

A squirrel warning

From the National Chairman of the Timber Growers Association

Sir, Were Mr Harris (letter, February 9) one of the many woodland owners who have seen the work of a generation to grow crops of broadleaves ruined in weeks by bark-stripping following the displacement of red squirrels by greys, he would wonder no more why the greys need to be poisoned.

Poison is an emotive word. Warfarin at .02 per cent properly dispensed has no effect on other wildlife and is the best weapon that we have. It has no effect on birds. Other methods are on their way, but red squirrel populations are declining so fast that we have to act now using the best means at our disposal.

Yours faithfully,
MARK CRICHTON MAITLAND,
National Chairman,
Timber Growers Association,
198 Upper Richmond Road, SW15.
February 9.

Ways to fall asleep

From Mrs P. A. Booth

Sir, With reference to the Reverend R. J. Hills who prayed before going to sleep (letter, February 5; also letter, February 7), I do use this as a nighttime exercise. However, I pray alphabetically, ie, A for Anne, B for Bob etc.

As I have never reached the letter "K", in fairness to my friends at the end of the alphabet, I am now praying backwards. Hopefully all will benefit.

Yours truly,
PAMELA A. BOOTH,
Fryston,
Derwent Lane, Hathersage,
Nr Sheffield, South Yorkshire.
February 7.

ELECTRICITY

هكذا في الاهرام

COURT CIRCULAR

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 10: The Duchess of Kent, Patron, UNICEF, this morning visited the Integrated Child Development Services, Varanasi, and the Gursandi Village Primary Education Project, Mirzapur, India.

Her Royal Highness this afternoon visited the Government School and the Bikha Village, Mirzapur.

BUCKINGHAM PALACE

February 11: The Prince Edward, Patron, this evening attended a Ball to mark the Fortieth Anniversary of the National Youth Theatre of Great Britain at the Grosvenor House Hotel, Park Lane, London W1.

YORK HOUSE
ST JAMES'S PALACE

February 11: The Duke of Kent, President, the Royal Choral Society, this evening attended a performance of the *Dream of Gerontius* given by the Society and the Royal Philharmonic Orchestra at the Royal Albert Hall, London SW7.

Birthdays today

Vice-Admiral Sir Peter Abbott, 54; General Sir John Akehurst, 66; General Sir John Archer, 72; Mr Steve Backley, athlete, 27; Professor A.H. Beckett, former professor of pharmacy, 76; Mr Roland Boyes, MP, 59; Lord Brocket, 44; Mr Alexander Carlile, MP, 48; Viscount Chandos, 43; Miss Annette Crosbie, actress, 62; Mr Howard Davies, former Director-General, CBI, 45; Sir James Dunnett, civil servant, 82; Dr K.J.R. Edwards, Vice-Chancellor, Leicester University, 62; Mr Stephen Gibbs, former chairman, Turner and Newall, 76; Lord Granville of Eye, 97; Lord Greene of Harrow Weald, 86; Mr Paul Hamlyn, publisher, 70; Miss Christine Hancock, general secretary, Royal College of Nursing, 53; Sir Robin Mackworth-Young, Librarian Emeritus to The Queen, 76; Lord Morison, 65; Lord Moyola, 73; Dame Alison Munro, former High Mistress, St Paul's Girls School, 82; Mr John Raisman, former chairman, Shell UK, 67; Mr Justice Rougier, 64; Mr Fergus Slattery, rugby player, 45; Mr Peter Snape, MP, 54; the Hon Nicholas Soames, MP, 48; Mr Peter Temple-Morris, MP, 58; Sir Aubrey Trotman-Dickenson, former Principal, University of Wales College of Cardiff, 70; Lord Wigoder, QC, 75; Mr Albert Williams, trade unionist, 69.

Royal engagements

The Princess Royal, as President of the Patrons of Crime Concern, will launch the Legal and General kickstart handbook at the headquarters, Temple Court, 11 Queen Victoria Street, EC4, at 5.30; and will attend a Special Forces Club 50th anniversary reception and dinner at the Imperial War Museum at 7.40.

Luncheon

Royal Society of St George

The Deputy Lord Mayor of Westminster, accompanied by Mrs Jiggens, was a speaker at a luncheon of the City of Westminster branch of the Royal Society of St George held on Saturday at the London Scottish Regimental Headquarters. Mr Robert M. Sewell, chairman, and Mr John Stanton, also spoke. Members of the society from New York, Baltimore and Philadelphia were present.

Service dinner

RMA Sandhurst

Officers of Waterloo Company, RMA Sandhurst, Intake 6, held a dinner on Saturday at the Infantry Mess, Warminster, to mark the anniversary of commissioning. Major-General P.I. Chiswell presided.

Nature notes



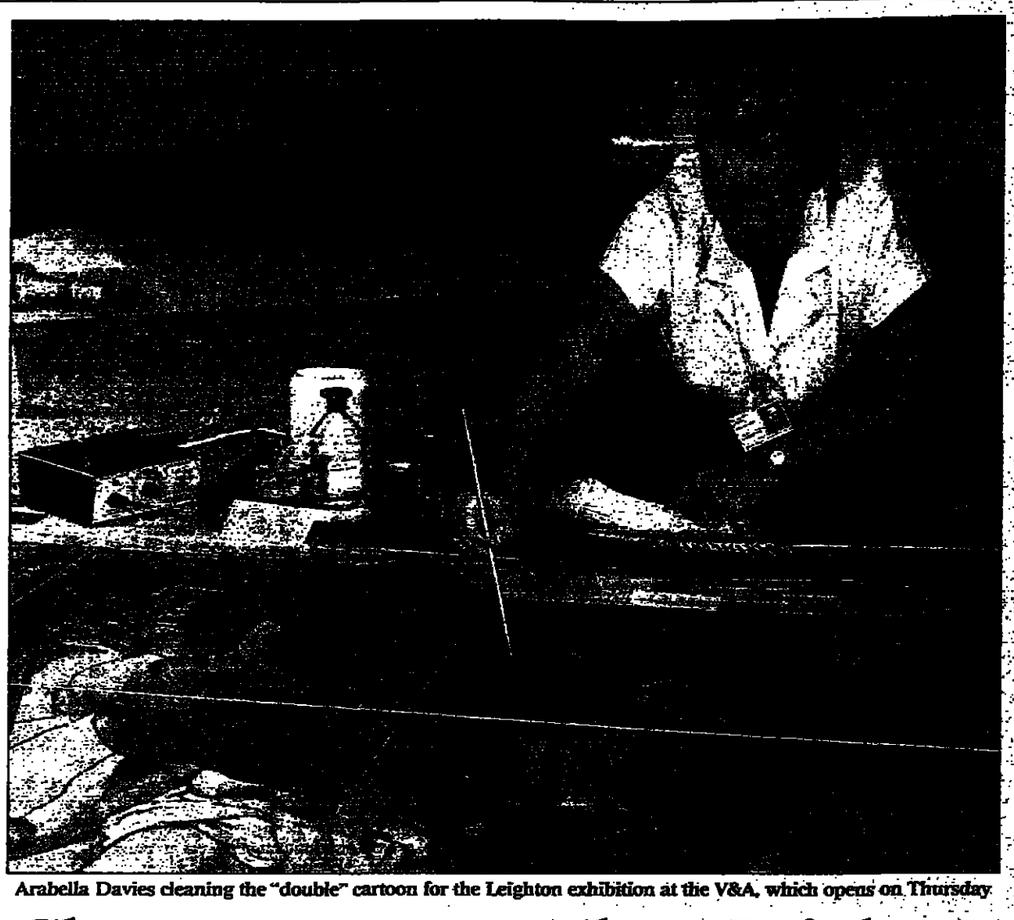
Raven: acrobatic courtship

BLUE TITS are going busily in and out of holes, prospecting for nest sites. The male birds are acquiring bright blue caps and backs and singing their faint song, like a brisk trickle of water. A few blackbirds are beginning to sing as the weather turns mild once more.

On the mountains and moors, ravens are courting: the male wheels and abruptly dives, and sometimes flies for a moment on his back to impress the female. Some ravens are already building their bulky nests of sticks on ledges and in tree tops.

Winter wheat is coming through in the fields, and at the grassy edges field speedwell has heart-shaped leaves and small buds that will soon open into blue-and-white flowers. Dandelions have rosettes of jagged leaves, and a bud like a small green thimble on a hollow, milky stalk in the middle. Woodlice huddle under stones in rockeries: they are relatives of shrimps and crabs, and always need to keep damp.

DJM



Arabella Davies cleaning the "double" cartoon for the Leighton exhibition at the V&A, which opens on Thursday

Clean-up uncovers 'lost' Leighton

BY JOHN SHAW

TWO temporary art specialists working at the Victoria and Albert Museum have found the design for a fresco by Frederic Leighton that had been thought destroyed. Details of the discovery by Gabrielle Jansen, 32, and Arabella Davies, 26, emerged for the first time yesterday.

On Thursday an exhibition of Leighton's work opens to mark the centenary of his death, and other major shows are taking place at the Royal Academy and his home in Holland Park, west London.

Frederic Leighton was one of the dominant figures of late Victorian art. His two vast semi-circular frescoes showing figures in architectural settings are the centrepiece of the V&A exhibition.

A crucial part of the display exploring his working methods will be a 35ft cartoon for one of them, *The Arts of Industry as Applied to Peace*, which was finished in November 1883. It has long been a mystery that while this survived intact, there was no record of what happened to its partner, for *The Arts of Industry as Applied To War*, which was completed in 1877.

Miss Jansen, an art conservationist trained in Florence, who was working on a temporary contract at the museum with Miss Davies, from the Courtauld Institute, said they found it by accident while cleaning away the surface dirt which covered most of the main image of the "Peace" cartoon.

"The cartoon was extremely dirty because it had been on a roller for over 100 years. But as we removed the dirt, shadowy forms began to emerge which I recognised from seeing the other fresco.

"It was mostly the folds of the draperies which showed through because they are in lead white, which comes through the thin paint layers. It was very exciting as more forms began to emerge.

"Microscopic analysis of tiny paint samples proved that what we thought was true, and that the missing first cartoon was hidden underneath the second."

Dr Timothy Barringer, research fellow in Victorian studies at the museum until last year, said: "This has been a mystery for as long as anyone has written about the frescoes. It is really a great discovery.

"Everyone assumed the first cartoon had been destroyed. It is a most welcome addition to our knowledge about the body of Leighton's work."

Dr Barringer, now a lecturer at Birkbeck College, London University, said: "These frescoes were done at the height of his career, and the nice thing is that we can now trace the whole process from beginning to end. To the museum curator and academic, it's the final piece of the Leighton jigsaw."

BIRTHS: Thomas Campion, poet and musician, London, 1567; Jan Swammerdam, entomologist, Amsterdam, 1637; Cotton Mather, Puritan and writer, Boston, Massachusetts, 1663; George Hadley, meteorologist, London, 1685; William Whitehead, Poet Laureate 1757-85, Cambridge, baptised this day 1715; Charles Darwin, naturalist, Shrewsbury, 1809; Abraham Lincoln, 16th American President 1861-65, Larue County, Kentucky, 1809; Edward Forbes, naturalist, Douglas, Isle of Man, 1815; George Meredith, novelist, Portsmouth, 1828; Marie Lloyd, music-hall singer, London, 1870; Omar Nelson Bradley, American army general, Clark, Missouri, 1893; Max Beckmann, Expressionist painter, Leipzig, 1884; Roy Harris, composer, Lincoln County, Oklahoma, 1898.

DEATHS: Lady Jane Grey, Queen of England May 6-19, 1553, executed London, 1554; Charles Le Brun, painter, Versailles, 1690; Pierre Marivaux, novelist and dramatist, Paris, 1763; Ts'ao Hsueh-ch'in, novelist, Peking, 1763; Immanuel Kant, philosopher, Königsberg, Germany, 1804; Sir Astley Cooper, surgeon, London, 1841; Hans von Bülow, pianist and conductor, Cairo, 1894; Lillie Langtry, actress, Monte Carlo, 1929; Charles Voysey, architect, Winchester, 1941; H.M. Bateman, cartoonist, Malta, 1970.

Surrender of French troops who landed at Pembrokeshire, 1797.

Chile's independence was proclaimed in Santiago, 1818.

J.W. Goodrich of Boston, Massachusetts, invented rubber galoshes, 1831.

The first inter-club football match was played at Sheffield between Sheffield and Hallam, 1861.

The Manchu dynasty was overthrown and China became a republic, 1912.

Anniversaries

University news

Abigail Loelia Hall, formerly of Blackpool Sixth Form College, has been elected to a Nuffield Scholarship in Biological Science at Somerville College, Oxford.

Appointments

Mr Paul Anthony Mason Clark to be a Metropolitan Stipendiary Magistrate from February 19.

Dr Ian Peters has been appointed Deputy Director General of the British Chambers of Commerce in succession to Mr Richard Brown.

Forthcoming marriages

Sir William Arbuthnot, Bt, and Dr T.A.S. Bowyer Bower

The engagement is announced between William, elder son of the late Sir John Arbuthnot, of Kittybrewster, and of Lady Arbuthnot, of Fairholt Street, SW7, and Tanya, younger daughter of the late Mr Michael Bowyer Bower and of Mrs Bowyer Bower, of Devon.

Mr T.G.C. Bilborough and Miss G. Martyn

The engagement is announced between Timothy George Crossley, son of Dick and Jenni Bilborough, of Diss, Norfolk, and Georgiana, twin daughter of the late Denys Martyn and of Mrs Paul Adair, of Glanwysg, Gilwern, Gwent.

Mr A.J. Bott and Miss C.A.L. Middlemas

The engagement is announced between Andrew, second son of Mr and Mrs Harry Bott, of Benington Lordship, Hertfordshire, and Annabel, youngest daughter of Professor and Mrs Keith Middlemas, of West Burton House, West Burton, West Sussex.

Professor P. Gray and Mrs R.K. Herzig

The engagement is announced between Peter Gray, Master of Gonville and Caius College, Cambridge, and Rachel Katharine Herzig, née Burton, widow of the late Christopher Herzig, of Horsham, West Sussex.

Mr D.C. McCormick and Miss V. Bowley

The engagement is announced between Dughall Conor, younger son of Mr and Mrs Fionn McCormick, of Saffron Walden, Essex, and Victoria, daughter of Mr and Mrs Frank Bowley, of Whitnash, Leamington Spa, Warwickshire.

Mr P.H. Osman and Miss F.H. Galloway

The engagement is announced between Peter, son of the late Mr Ronald Frank Osman and of Mrs Jo Osman, of Porth Navas, Cornwall, and Fiona, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs Iain Galloway, of Thorne Coffin, Somerset.

Mr B.D. Thornton and Miss E.J. Moss

The engagement is announced between Ben, the second of the five sons of Mr and Mrs Brian Thornton, of Lydney, Gloucestershire, and Emma, younger daughter of Mr and Mrs John Moss, of Beeston, Nottingham.

Marriages

Mr T.P. Cabot and Miss S.R.E. Snow

The marriage took place on Saturday at the Church of St Mary the Virgin, Glynde, near Lewes, East Sussex, of Mr Timothy Cabot, younger son of Mr Lewis Cabot, of Maine, United States, and of Lady Thompson, of Princeton, New Jersey, to Miss Sara Snow, younger daughter of the late Mr Peter Snow and of Viscountess Hampden, of Glynde. The Rev Dr P.A. Lynn officiated. The bride, who was given in marriage by her brother, Mr Alexander Snow, was attended by Tessa Pilkington, Christiana Hambro, Elizabeth Snow, Edward Rabben, and Joseph Snow. Mr Edward Cabot was best man. A reception was held at Glynde Place and the honeymoon will be spent in India.

Mr A.B. Iversen and Miss Y.I. Mitchell

The marriage took place on February 10, at The Edgwarebury, Elstree, of Mr Anders Iversen, son of Mr and Mrs Niels Iversen, of East Sussex, to Miss Yvonne Mitchell, daughter of Mr and Mrs Mike Mitchell, of London.

Mr R.A.B. Moore and Miss C.M. Stewart

The marriage took place on February 10, at the Brompton Oratory, London, between Mr Rupert Moore, son of Mr and Mrs Kenneth Moore, of London, and Miss Catherine Stewart, daughter of Mr and Mrs Stephen Stewart, of Southport, Connecticut. Father David Martin officiated. The bride was attended by Miss Catherine Moore, Miss Sophie Moore, Miss Harriet Bury, Mrs Noemi Stewart, Laura Saunders, Poppy Skepper, Max Saunders and Miss Michelle Borsuk, maid of honour. Mr Frank Bury was best man. A reception was held at the Hyde Park Hotel and the honeymoon is being spent in Antigua.

Memorial service

Professor Donald Davie

Sir Terence English, Master of St Catharine's College, Cambridge, was present at a memorial service for Professor Donald Davie, poet and honorary fellow of the college, held on Saturday in the college chapel. The Rev Paul Langham, chaplain, officiated.

Dr Mark Davie, son, read the lesson and Ms Elaine Feinstein read Professor Davie's *If I take the Wings of the Morning*. Mr Seamus Heaney, Professor Charles Tomlinson and Mr Clive Wilmer also read Professor Davie's poetry.

Mr Michael Schmidt gave an address. The Right Rev Hugh Montefiore pronounced the blessing.

King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho

A memorial celebration was held for King Moshoeshoe II of Lesotho at the Africa Centre, London WC1, on Saturday. It was organised by the Institute for Democracy and Human Rights in Africa, of which the late King was the chief creator.

Lord O'Brien of Lothbury

A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Lord O'Brien of Lothbury, GBE, PC, FRCM, will be held in the Chapel of the Order of the British Empire, the Crypt, St Paul's Cathedral at 11.30am on Thursday, March 14.

Those attending are requested to take their seats by 11.15am. For further information, please contact the Assistant Secretary, Bank of England.

James Clyde Mitchell

A memorial meeting for James Clyde Mitchell, MA Oxon, FBA, will be held in Nuffield College Hall, Oxford, on Saturday, February 24, 1996, at 2.30pm.

Events

The Queen's Life Guard mounts at Horse Guards at 11.00.

BMDS: 0171 782 7272
PRIVATE: 0171 481 4000

PERSONAL COLUMN

TRADE: 0171 481 1982
FAX: 0171 481 9313

To fear the Lord is to hate evil. Pride, arrogance, evil ways, subversive talk, all these I hate.
Proverbs 8 : 13 (REB)

BIRTHS

ASTOR - On February 6th 1996, to Diana and Robert, a son, Nicholas Louis Robert.

BEARD - On February 6th 1996, to Kate (née Warde-Aldam) and Alex, a daughter, Betty Rose.

HARRIS - On 6th February, to Elizabeth (née Farrell) and Michael, a son, William Richard, a brother for Nicholas.

HILLS - On February 7th, to Harriet (née Peter-Hobbyn) and George, a daughter, Rosemary.

SCOTT To Michael and Gillian (née Coulthard), a son, James Laurence William on 2nd February 1996

DEATHS

BARNES - Albert William, known as Barney. Beloved husband of Clarice, who died a month before him and father of Rosemary, died peacefully on February 8th 1996 in Lymington Hospital, aged 94. For 34 years he was a Master, then Second Master, at Portora Royal School, Enniskillen. Funeral at Bournemouth Crematorium on Thursday February 15th at 2pm. No flowers but a donation in lieu to a charity of your choice.

BUSBY - Edith Joan, 6th February 1996, suddenly at home, the much loved sister of Derek and Rosamond, will be sadly missed by her family and all who knew her. Service at St. Luke's Church Crosby, Liverpool on Wednesday 14th February at 12 noon. Interment following at Birkdale Cemetery. Family flowers only please, but donations if so desired to The Worldwide Fund for Nature or The British Heart Foundation.

CARLILL Vice Admiral Sir Stephen Hope ,KBE, CB, DSO, on the 9th Feb 1996 aged 93, peacefully at Eyendiffe House, Colwall, Malvern. Devoted husband of the late Hilla and much loved father, grandfather and very proud greatgrandfather. Cremation at Worcester Crematorium on Thursday 15th February at 1.30 pm. Memorial thanksgiving service at Christ Church Milford at All Saints Church Milford on Sea, Lymington thank on Thursday 22nd February at 2 pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired, to King George's Fund for Sailors, c/o Diamond and Son Funeral Directors, 9-11 Lower Buckland Rd Lymington Hants SO41 9DN

DEATHS

CHIGNALL - Geoffrey Cranston aged 61, died peacefully on 7th February after a long and courageous fight against cancer. His much loved Pamela, brothers, sister, family and dear friends deeply mourn his sad passing. The funeral service will be held at St Lawrence Parish Church, Bovingdon, Herts on Wednesday 14th February at 12 noon. All friends are invited. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to either Cancer Research Campaign c/o Mrs Cumming, Old Red Lion Farm, Surrait, Herts or to The Friends of Michael Sobell House, Mount Vernon, Northwood, Middlesex.

CLEMENT - Malcolm V.H. widower of Winifred, formerly of Ford Motor Company and laterly General Manager Palace Theatre Westcliff-on-Sea. On February 9th, aged 63, died peacefully after a short illness bravely borne. Much loved father and grandfather who will be greatly missed by those he leaves behind. We know he found these last few months difficult without Win, and feel that they can now be together again. Funeral Friday 16th February at 4 pm at Southend Crematorium. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to either Marie Curie Cancer Care or S.C.E.N.T., c/o 21 Elgerton Road, Westcliff-on-Sea, Essex SS0 8AG.

CRAVEN - On February 5th at Royal Hospital, Calow, Chesterfield, George Thomas aged 85 after a short illness. Much loved husband of Daphne, father of Lucy and Robert, grandfather of Sophie Elizabeth. Cremation at Chesterfield February 13th. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to Ashover Ward Trust Fund, Royal Hospital, Calow, Chesterfield, S44 5BL.

DAVEY - Norman Charles, OBE, on 5th February 1996, in the Royal Sussex County Hospital, with his family around him. Special to many but particularly to Colette, Sandra, Caroline, Ian, Simon, Marion and Louise. Funeral service will be at Worthing Crematorium at 2.40 p.m. on Friday 16th February. Flowers, or if desired, donations to the Leukaemia Research Fund, c/o Cooper & Son Funeral Services, 42 High Street, Lewes, East Sussex. Tel: (01273) 476667.

DELISS - Cosmo Joachim Ian Balthazar, died suddenly on 24th January aged 25. Funeral to be held on Wednesday 14th February in St Peter's Church, Priors Dean.

DEATHS

HARVEY - On 8th February, Angela, wife of Ronald, mother of Rosanna and Julian. After illness bravely fought. Much loved and sorely missed. Funeral private. No flowers. Donations if desired to St. Wilfrid's Hospice, Chichester.

HASWOOD - JE Godfrey on 8th February aged 95. Loving husband of the late Hendrika. Mourned by Stephan, Nicola and Gillian. Funeral at Portchester Crematorium at 12.30 pm on Monday 19th February. No flowers; donations if desired to Emsworth Stroke Club c/o Wraight and Sons, 25 High Street Emsworth PO10 7EG.

HAYSELDEN - Gordon. Peacefully on 3rd February 1996. Beloved husband of Veronica, father of Susan and Carol, grandfather of Dale, Jay, Camilla and Alden. A much treasured and respected friend to many. Private funeral. Family flowers only.

HOBSON - Bertha Elizabeth, formerly of Argentina, died peacefully aged 90 at home in Rustington, Sussex. Beloved wife of the late Tony, darling mother of Sue, Virginia and Daisy, and much loved grandmother and great-grandmother. Funeral on 15th February at St. Margaret's Church, Warnham, Sussex, at 12 noon. Enquiries to H.D. Tribe Ltd. (01903) 234 516.

JOHNSON - Kathleen Jessie, wife of Christopher, mother of Paul, Lydia, Emily and Helen. On the 9th of February at Marazion, Cornwall.

MURRAY - Bunty (née Neatby) on 9th February peacefully at the Old Prebendal House Nursing Home aged 81 years. Widow of Peter and devoted mother of Hugh and Anne. The Funeral Service will be at Coln St Aldwyns on Thursday 15 th February at 11 am Donations to Great Ormond Street Hospital

NEWBOLD - On 8th February 1996, Tatiana (née Arthur) aged 81, at William Harvey Hospital, Ashford, Kent. Peacefully after a short illness. Dearly loved wife of the late Hugh and mother of Christopher and Michael, and grandma. Funeral Service at St Gregory and St Martin Church, Wye, Kent on February 16th 3.15pm followed by cremation at Charing Crematorium at 4pm. Family flowers only. Donations if desired to The Chest Heart and Stroke Association c/o F.C. Wood, 21 Tufton Street, Ashford Kent. TN23 1QN (01233 620109).

DEATHS

PRESTON, Sir Peter; former Permanent Secretary ODA. On 9th February after a long illness. Dearly beloved husband of Marjory, father of Amanda, Sarah, Clive, Caroline and Matthew. Funeral at St. George's Church, Ashtead, Surrey on Friday, 16th February at 1:30. No flowers.

THORNDYKE - On 8th February, Edna Gladys of Pinhoe, Exeter, peacefully in hospital aged 89.

TUTE DALTON - LL Colonel Edward (Bill) M.C. on February 9th. Very dear husband of Shelagh, much loved father of Eddy, Frances and Tom and grandfather of Eleanor, Harriet, William, Toby, Harry and Angus. Funeral service at St Mary's Church, Almondsbury on Friday February 16th at 2pm. Family flowers only, donations if desired to the Gurkha Welfare Trust or Friends of Thornbury Hospital.

FUNERAL ARRANGEMENTS

CHARLES - The Funeral of Victor Charles, late of London will take place at St. Patrick's Church, Soho Square W1, on Thursday 15th February at 10 am. Floral Tributes to be delivered to Leverton & Son Funeral Directors, 212, Evershott Street, NW1 by 5pm Wednesday 14th February.

MEMORIAL SERVICES

EDDINGTON - A Service of Celebration for the life of Paul Eddington C.B.E. will be held at St. Paul's Church, Covent Garden on Thursday 29th February at 12 noon.

IN MEMORIAM — PRIVATE

ROLF - Dear Muriel, who died 11th February 1981. Remembered with love by Jim and Geoffrey.

THANKSGIVING SERVICES

FROST - A Service of Thanksgiving for the life of Ronald Frost will be held at All Saints Church, Sidmouth, Devon, on Saturday 17th February at 6 pm. Enquiries to: (01396) 513586.

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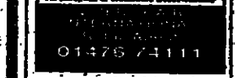
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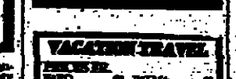
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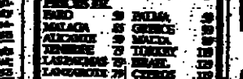


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LEGAL NOTICES

GRAFTON HOUSE PREPARATORY SCHOOL LTD
THE INSOLVENCY ACT 1986
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Section 98 of the Insolvency Act 1986, that a meeting of the creditors of the above named company will be held at the offices of Pountains & Appleby, 32 High Street, Maidenhead, Berks. SL6 1QD on Tuesday 20th February 1996, at 12.00 o'clock noon for the purposes mentioned in Sections 99, 100 and 101 of the said Act.
Pursuant to Section 98, Subsection (2)(b) of the Act, Mr P Lamb of Pountains & Appleby, 32 High Street, Maidenhead, SL6 1QD is appointed to act as the Qualified Insolvency Practitioner who will furnish creditors with such information as they may reasonably require.
Dated 6th February 1996.
BY ORDER OF THE BOARD
S K Birchenough, Director.

EX-LANDS HOLDINGS PLC
(In Members Voluntary Liquidation)
Company Number: 2884446
On 6 February 1996, the above named company was placed into Members' Voluntary Liquidation and Ian McIntosh and John Pitcher of Deloitte & Touche, Cedric House, 39 East Hatton Street, London EC4A 3AS were appointed Joint Liquidators of the Company.
NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN pursuant to Rule 4.182A of the Insolvency Rules 1986, that the Joint Liquidators of the company intend making a final distribution to creditors.
Creditors of the company are required to prove their debts on or before 8 March 1996 by sending to I McIntosh, Joint Liquidator, at the address given below, with full particulars of the amount and the claim to be due to them from the company. They must also, if so requested, provide such further details or produce such documentary or other evidence as may appear to the Joint Liquidators to be necessary.
A creditor who has not proved his debt before the time mentioned above is not entitled to a dividend or other distribution which may be made before his debt is proved. Dated 6 February 1996.
I McIntosh, Joint Liquidator.
Deloitte & Touche.
P O Box 810, Cedric House, 39 East Hatton Street, London, EC4A 3AS.

INCHPACK, LIMITED
t/a Nicholas Charles
(In Creditors Voluntary Liquidation)
The Insolvency Act 1986
In accordance with Rule 4.106 of the Insolvency Rules 1986, notice is hereby given that I, Christopher Charles Cox, FCA, of No. 20 Tudor Street, London EC4Y 0DJ, was appointed Liquidator of the above Company by the members and creditors at a meeting held on the 1st February 1996. All debts and claims should be sent to me at the above address.
All creditors who have already done so have to prove their claims in writing to me. No further public advertisement or invitation to prove will be given.
Dated this 7th February 19
JJ SCHIAFFINO, ACA, Liquid

OBITUARIES

REAR-ADMIRAL CLARENCE HOWARD-JOHNSTON

Rear-Admiral Clarence Howard-Johnston, CB, DSO, DSC, wartime anti-U-boat director, died on January 26 aged 92. He was born on October 13, 1903.



VICTORY or defeat in the Second World War was determined by the outcome of the Battle of the Atlantic. Winston Churchill once remarked that the only thing that ever really frightened him during the war was the U-boat peril. For the Allies it was an essentially defensive campaign of science and strategem, where success depended less upon the application of individual skill, training, and courage, under conditions of extreme hardship, than upon technological invention, sagacious planning and high-level strategic insight.

Clarence Howard-Johnston, who was always known as "Johnny" to his friends, was intimately involved in every aspect of this struggle, from the early days of hands-on technical development through convoy escort command to the influential heights of staff work at the level of Churchill's War Cabinet.

The son of American and Scottish engineering families, with interests in Peru and Russia, Howard-Johnston was brought up in Nice, and first went to sea as plain Midshipman Johnston in 1922, serving in several battleships on the Home and Mediterranean stations. He later adopted one of his father's given names in order "to lift himself out of the ruck of Johnstons in the Navy List".

After a secondment to Paris to polish up his French, he was dispatched in 1929 to the China station as the second-in-command of the gunboat *Tarantula*, dealing with pirates on the Yangste and West rivers.

But in 1931 he found his natural bent. An ingenious man with a talent for innovation and logical inquiry, he volunteered to specialise in anti-submarine warfare. He was soon serving in the destroyer flotilla leaders *Woolston* and *Faulknor* as the anti-submarine expert for their groups, and later earned an Admiralty commendation for the invention of the "Johnston Mobile Target" for training Asdic operators. During the Spanish Civil War, the *Faulknor* was engaged in evacuating refugees including, on one occasion, an entire convent of nuns from Barcelona.

Promoted to the rank of commander in 1937, Howard-Johnston had a short tour in command of the destroyer *Viscount* before being appointed director of studies at the Greek Naval Academy in Athens, where he was awarded the Order of the Phoenix by the King of the Hellenes.

During the unsuccessful campaign to protect Norway against German invasion in April 1940, Howard-Johnston commanded a force of anti-submarine trawlers in the fiords and was sunk by air attack, with three of his ships. Having been rescued, he played a part in the evacuation of troops from Andalsnes and Molde, for which he was awarded the DSC.

In June 1940 he transported eight tons of explosive to St Malo in the sloop *Wild Swan*. During the evacuation of the port he and his team continued demolitions until the enemy's advanced troops were almost at the gates. He received a mention in dispatches for this exploit.

A less adventurous period in the Anti-Submarine Warfare Division of the Admiralty was followed by appointment to command the destroyer *Malcolm* and Escort Group B12 in December 1940. The U-boat war was hotting up: in that month 42 Allied ships had been sunk — but no U-boats.

A contemporary commanding officer, Commander D. A. Rayner, wrote that he regarded Howard-Johnston as the finest senior officer in the Western Approaches and B12 the best group. He described him thus: "Fair-haired and of medium stature, he had the figure of a young man. Perhaps my strongest memory is of the terrific enthusiasm with which he approached every problem. Although he flogged us nearly to death in a never-ending search for efficiency, he never fussed us with unnecessary signals and held us together by a team spirit that neither wind, weather nor the enemy could break."

And Escort Group B12 did have a remarkable record. Through the terrible summer months of 1941, they escorted 1,229 ships without loss. They sank only one submarine, for which Howard-Johnston was awarded the DSO but, as he said at the time, "our business is to bring home the merchantmen. Sinking the enemy will come later."

After a short period in command of the destroyer *Hurricane* on escort duty, and by then widely recognised as a master of tactics, he was appointed in June 1942 — the worst of all months of the battle — to the staff of Admiral Sir Percy Noble, the C-in-C Western Approaches. Based at Liverpool, this headquarters under Noble and subsequently Sir Max Horton played a crucial role. As Anti-Submarine Staff Officer, Howard-Johnston was a hard taskmaster: his judgments, as shown in the official histories, must have been painful reading to those at sea who had forgotten that the prime aim was the safe and timely arrival of the convoy, and not the glamorous sinking of U-boats.

Promoted captain, he was sent in October 1943 to the Admiralty as the Director of the Anti-Submarine Warfare Division until the end of the war. This highly responsible post for a young captain knitted together all the intelligence and operational strands of the anti-submarine business and was answerable for briefing the War Cabinet.

At the end of the war, Howard-Johnston commanded the cruiser *Bermuda* in the Far East, where he was awarded the US Legion of Merit. His French connections helped him towards a tour as naval attaché at the Paris Embassy followed by command of the underwater warfare school, *HMS Vernon*, at Portsmouth. Here he promoted the use of helicopters to hunt submarines, a *sine qua non* today.

He retired and was appointed CB in 1955, having had a final tour as a rear-admiral and as Nato Chief of Staff to the Flag Officer, Central Europe.

In retirement his prime concern was to build a wildfowl habitat in the Basque country near Bayonne. This required the conversion of a dilapidated mill at Bardos, much hydraulic innovation and the creation of a system of lakes. He was awarded the Mérite Agricole for this work. It would seem likely that he is the only British rear-admiral to be so honoured. Basques are a clannish people, but many attended his funeral in tears.

He was three times married; his son Richard by his first marriage was a sub-lieutenant under training with his classmates in the *Affray* when that submarine was lost with all hands in the Channel on April 17, 1951. His second marriage to Lady Alexandra, daughter of Earl Haig, was also dissolved. In 1955 he married Paulette Helleu and is survived by her and the two sons and daughter of the second marriage.

SIR JOHN BADENOCH

Sir John Badenoch, consultant physician and lecturer at Oxford University, died on January 16 aged 75. He was born on March 8, 1920.



JOHN BADENOCH taught several generations of medical students at Oxford University, first as Director of Clinical Studies, 1954-65, and then for twenty years as a consultant physician at the United Oxford Hospitals, as the group of Oxford hospitals was then known, and as a university lecturer.

He was at his most effective as a bedside teacher — guiding students on his ward rounds and taking them through the history and examination of a patient. He continued to call students by their surnames long after this practice had fallen out of fashion in the rest of the university, and to call patients by their full title. While Badenoch was capable of great charm, over-familiarity was anathema to him.

John Badenoch was the son of a Scottish family doctor who practised in London, and he began his preclinical studies in Oxford in 1938. In 1941 he was awarded a Rockefeller student fellowship to complete his studies at Cornell University in New York State. He returned to Oxford in 1943 after a long, adventurous, wartime crossing of the Atlantic. Soon after his arrival he passed the final medical examinations of Oxford University and became house physician to the professorial unit. In 1944 he married Anne Forster and then left Oxford again, this time as a major in the RAMC, serving first in Africa and then in command of a military hospital in Kent. A spell in general practice in London followed but he was more interested in combining clinical practice with teaching and research. Thus he returned to Oxford in 1949 as a research fellow in the Nuffield department of medicine.

He studied nutritional anaemias and bone diseases caused by malabsorption from the gut and then became, serendipitously, the first person to perform the now widely practised biopsy of the mucosal lining of the gut. His thesis, based on these studies, was accepted for the DM degree in 1952.

Badenoch loved teaching, particularly at the bedside, and in 1954 he was appointed Director of Clinical Studies, at a time when the Oxford Medical School was going through a turbulent period of growth and development. His steadying influence on the capricious professoriate helped to establish what is now one of the outstanding medical schools in the country. He remained in that post for 11 years.

He was invited to sit on numerous committees, including the planning committee for the new John Radcliffe Hospital in Oxford, an experience that stood him in good stead when he was asked to advise on setting up the clinical school in Cambridge, and some years later a medical school in Oman.

His association with Merton College began in 1965 when he became a Fellow and he was Sub-Warden, 1976-78. He was elected a Fellow of the Royal College of Physicians in 1959 and was invited to give the Goulstonian Lecture the following year, an honour restricted to one of the youngest newly-elected fellows.

The college used him in various capacities — as examiner and chairman of the examining board, as pro-censor, censor and senior censor, and as the Hans Sloane Fellow, 1985-91, responsible for arranging hospital training in Britain for overseas doctors. He was knighted in 1984.

Retirement from clinical practice in 1985 brought no respite, and more work was piled upon him. The Government asked him to lead inquiries into the outbreak of legionnaires' disease in Stafford and into the contamination with cryptosporidium of the Norfolk Broads and other areas of the Anglian Water region; he chaired the Committee on Vaccination and Immunisation, was a member of the General Medical Council and the British Heart Foundation executive council.

Yet he still found time for nature study, especially ornithology, for photography — using an "electronic eye" to capture on film the nocturnal badger and an occasional poacher — and for travel. When he and his wife felt the need to recharge their batteries, they found peace in Strath Spey, the lands of the Badenochs in northeast Scotland.

He is survived by his wife, two sons and two daughters.

SHARMAN DOUGLAS

Sharman Douglas, New York socialite and charity worker, died from cancer on February 3 aged 67. She was born on October 5, 1928.



Sharman Douglas with Princess Margaret in 1950

SHARMAN DOUGLAS was the vivacious blonde daughter of Lewis Douglas, the American Ambassador to the Court of St James's during the late 1940s. She attracted a good deal of attention in her own right when she first arrived in London, but it was her subsequent friendship with Princess Margaret which really defined her life, and which brought her lasting celebrity in both Britain and America.

Her father Lewis W. Douglas had inherited his vast wealth from the family's copper mines in Arizona. He built a political career as a Democratic Congressman, before being rewarded with the London Embassy in 1947. Sharman — known to all as Sass — was educated at Brearley School and at Vassar, which she left to accompany her parents to London. She was a no-nonsense, gregarious young woman who loved the outdoors and sports, particularly riding, tennis and basketball. She was also very photogenic, tall with flaxen hair and deep blue eyes. Reporters took an immediate interest in her American hats and quaint flat shoes. In her turn, she was refreshingly candid with them. She admitted, for instance, to being "petrified" of meeting the Royal Family.

She did not have long to wait for the introduction and by the following year, despite her misgivings, had become firm friends with Princess Margaret. The Princess was, in her turn, introduced to Sharman's friends — English and American — and a group of these would meet for high-spirited evenings at the American Residence, unregarded by inquisitive reporters. But, of course, the newspapers were fascinated with Sharman, as they were with anyone close to the glamorous young Princess, and they promptly christened this new group of friends the "Margaret Set". In fact, as Princess Margaret was the first to point out, they were, if anything, the "Sharman Set". Nearly all of the Princess's new friends were introduced to her by Sharman. But, when Sharman returned to America in 1950, Margaret became the new centre of the group.

Gossip columns were filled with the most minute details of Sharman's social life. There was the party she hosted in 1949, for instance, at which Princess Elizabeth arrived dressed as an Edwardian parlour maid, Prince Philip as a waiter and Princess Margaret as a can-can dancer. If Sharman brought a welcome breeze of American informality to English society, she received in turn a great deal of hospitality. Her weekends were spent in grand country houses, and she was one of the first Americans to drive in the royal procession at Ascot. There were even rumours of her impending engagement to the Marquess of Milford Haven.

Both she and Princess Margaret were stage-struck, and would often go to the theatre together. When they were watching American actors, Sharman had no compunction about taking Princess Margaret backstage afterwards to meet the stars. It was on one of these informal evenings at the London Palladium that Princess Margaret met Danny Kaye, of whom she became a close friend.

Apart from her hectic social life, Sharman tried to take her job as the Ambassador's daughter seriously. She was often called upon to act as a deputy hostess to her mother, and she put herself through her own version of "finishing school" — visiting juvenile courts, youth clubs, children's hospitals and Scotland Yard in order better to understand British life. She also did a secretarial course, after which she thought it might be fun to get a job.

In 1950 her father returned to America and Sharman returned with him. She had already worked as a social secretary with Jean Simmons, and now she was appointed publicity agent to Sir Alexander Korda. Hollywood was amused by her Anglicised ways. She did not care much about her salary or for clocking in at the office punctually in the mornings. And she insisted on taking a long weekend, in the British tradition, from Friday until Tuesday. But she was extremely able at her work. During the 1950s she did publicity work for Jane Russell and Robert Mitchum, and became a theatre angel with her own company, Sass Incorporated.

In 1966 she was appointed Commissioner of Public Events in New York, with a brief from the Mayor, John Lindsay, to "bring some class" into the department. She was an immensely talented hostess, and she took great pains over details, finding out what sort of flowers and food her guests liked. She continued to work in public relations until her death, organising charitable Anglo-American benefits and in this way helping to cement the Anglo-American relationship. She was one of the brightest stars among her group of friends in New York, and despite being ill for the past year, remained sprightly and independent.

Her friendship with the Royal Family never waned. She arranged the visit of Princess Margaret and Lord Snowdon to Hollywood in 1965, and entertained the Duke of Edinburgh during his visits to the States. She visited London at least once a year, often staying at Claridge's. If she was holding a reception, even a very small one for a dozen people, it was not unusual to see the Queen there.

To her regret, she never had children. After politely deflecting inquiries about her personal life for many years, Sharman Douglas married in 1968 Andrew Hay, the president of a food importing firm. But it was not a happy marriage, and they were divorced in 1977. She is survived by her two brothers.

SIR RICHARD ALLEN

Sir Richard Allen, KCMG, Ambassador to Burma, 1956-62, died on January 16 aged 92. He was born on February 3, 1903.



RICHARD ALLEN may have had a conventional Foreign Office career but, for a diplomat, he certainly enjoyed an unconventional retirement. On leaving the British Embassy in Rangoon at the age of 59, he accepted a post as a lecturer at the University of Wall-Walla in Washington State on the West Coast of America. He later held visiting lectureships at other US universities, notably those of Oregon and Virginia. A recognised authority on what was not then called "the Pacific Rim", he was the author of two books on the politics of South-East Asia.

Richard Hugh Sedley Allen was educated at the Royal Naval Colleges of Osborne and Dartmouth and then, having been invalided out of the Navy as an officer cadet, at New College, Oxford. After two years as a junior assistant secretary to the Governor of Palestine, he joined the Foreign Office in 1927 and was then posted to Tokyo two years later. He learnt enough Japanese to qualify for a language allowance, and throughout his career made a point of buckling down to learn even the most difficult languages of his various postings (he also mastered Russian). After Prague, Berne and Bogotá, Allen did a spell of three years at the Foreign Office during the Second World War. He then went to Warsaw from 1945 to 1950. There followed a succession of posts in Latin America — minister (that is, number two) in Buenos Aires, after which he was appointed CMG, and then minister in charge of the Legation at Guatemala, 1954-56.

His last post was also his longest. He served as Ambassador to Burma for six eventful years, 1956-62, an exciting period of Burma's postwar history. The worst of the civil war, which followed independence, was over. U Nu, the Prime Minister, was a prominent figure in the Non-Aligned Movement. In spite of war damage, much of the country's infrastructure was still in reasonably good shape. British firms (such as the Burmah Oil Company and the Bombay-Burma Trading Company) still played an important part in Burma's economic life. It was not until the military clampdown of 1962 that the country was turned into a hermit nation for a quarter of a century. Fortunately for Allen, this was his last year *en poste* as Ambassador.

Allen was appointed KCMG in 1960, the last British Ambassador to Burma to receive a knighthood. Rangoon gossip had it that this unusual honour was to be explained by the fact that a particular type of large lizard, a well-known harbinger of good fortune, had recently made its home behind the picture of the Queen in the Ambassador's residence.

In addition to his two books on South-East Asia — the first was specifically on Malaysia — Allen also wrote more ambitiously on the Arab-Israeli conflict. His *Imperialism and Nationalism in the Fertile Crescent* (1974) was highly praised at the time. On his return from America he went to live in Brittany and, when that turned out not to be a success, retired to live by the sea in Chichester. He was always interested in the young, with an eye for pretty women, and in his old age in Chichester attracted a bevy of young people who were happy to look after him and to be entertained by his suave and witty accounts of his varied life.

He married in 1945 Juliet Home Thomson who, along with their son, predeceased him. He is survived by a stepson.

Church news

Appointments

The Right Rev John Richards, Bishop of Ebbsfleet: to be also an Assistant Bishop in the diocese of Bath and Wells.

The Rev Phil Abrey, Curate, Caversham Park Church LEP: to be also County Ecumenical Officer for Berkshire (Oxford).

The Rev Timothy Ashworth, Chaplain, Stargill House, Kettlewell: to be Vicar, Ingleton w Chapel-le-Dale (Bradford).

The Rev Vivien Ashworth, Chaplain, Stargill House, Kettlewell: to be Honorary Assistant Curate, Ingleton w Chapel-le-Dale (Bradford).

The Rev Raymond Billingsley, Vicar, St Margaret, Ward End (Birmingham): to be Vicar, St Mary Magdalene (St Asaph).

The Rev Canon Donald Boak: to be Honorary Canon, St Andrews, Bernard Road, Bournemouth (Winchester).

The Rev Michael Cameron, Assistant Curate, Dinnington, Sheffield: to be Vicar, Beighton (Sheffield).

The Rev Ronald Cook, until recently chaplain of HM Prison, Blundeston (Norwich): to be Vicar, All Saints, Kettering (Peterborough).

The Rev Eric Delve, Priest-in-charge, Kirkdale St Lawrence (Liverpool): to be Vicar, Maidstone St Luke (Canterbury).

The Rev Graham Dodds, Rector, Bath Walcot: to be Lay Training Adviser and Director of Reader Studies (Bath and Wells).

The Rev Stephen Earl, Curate, Sawston: to be Vicar, Burwell (Ely).

The Rev Nigel Ely, Assistant Curate, SS Peter and Paul, Rustington (Chichester): to be Chaplain, Post 16 Centre, Newtown (Birmingham).

The Rev Jenifer Fryer, Chaplain's Assistant at the Royal Hallamshire and Weston Park Hospitals, Sheffield: to be full-time Assistant Chaplain at the Northern General Hospital, Sheffield (Sheffield).

The Rev Lee Gandiya, Assistant Curate, Lowestoft St Margaret w Oulton Community Church (LEP): now also Diocesan representative to the Committee on Black Anglican Concerns (Norwich).

The Rev Joe Hawes, Curate, Clapham Team Ministry: to be Team Vicar Designate, St Michael and All Angels, Barnes (Southwark).

The Rev Tim Hawkins, Vicar, St Pancras, Pennycross (Exeter): to be Priest-in-charge, St Keverne (Truro).

The Rev Patrick Hoare, Assistant Curate (NSM), St Mary and St Peter, Staines: to be Priest-in-charge, (NSM), St Mary Magdalene, Littleton (London).

The Rev James McKinney, Vicar, Cleator Moor w Cleator (Carlisle): to be Vicar, Holy Trinity, Roehampton (Southwark).

The Rev Anthony Macpherson, Priest-in-charge, St Michael's, Westgate Common, Wakefield: to be Vicar of that benefice (Wakefield).

The Rev Paul Miller, Vicar, Green Street Green and Pratts Bottom: to be also Rural Dean of Orpington (Rochester).

The Rev Shelagh Phillips: to be Associate Director of Training (Norwich).

The Rev Stephen Raine, Vicar, St Edwin's, Dunscroft (Sheffield): to be Vicar, St Mary's, Kettering (Peterborough).

The Rev Jenny Smith, Assistant Curate, and Chaplain of Bradford Cathedral: to be Priest-in-charge, Kelbrook (Bradford).

Resignations and retirements

The Rev Colin Hurford, Rector, Team Ministry of Billingham St Aidan and St Luke (Durham): to resign as from June 30.

The Rev Donald Sparkes, Vicar, Christ Church, Pitsmoor (Sheffield): to retire September 30.

The Rev Noel Toogood, Vicar, Madron (Truro): retired Jan 31.

TREMORS SHAKE 11 COUNTIES CASUALTIES IN MIDLANDS

An earth tremor, generally agreed to have been the most severe and widespread in Britain for many years, was felt in 11 counties in the Midlands yesterday. It occurred at approximately 3.45pm and its effects were felt in towns as far apart as Blackpool and Sheffield in the North, Grimsby in the East, and Bristol in the West.

There were many reports of chimneys topping masonry being dislodged and other damage. In Derby a boy struck by falling debris suffered a fractured skull. Several people were treated for minor injuries and shock.

The counties affected were Nottinghamshire, Derbyshire, Staffordshire, Leicestershire, Northamptonshire, Yorkshire, Lancashire, Cheshire, Lincolnshire, Gloucestershire, and Warwickshire.

People in a Nottingham cinema became alarmed when the screen began shaking. Women screamed and several people were knocked down in a rush to the exits. The staff shouted to the audience to remain in their seats, but many people ignored the appeal.

A large crack appeared in the wall of Nottingham ambulance headquarters. A chimney stack which collapsed in Norton Street crashed through a garage roof, severely damaging the car inside. In Duke Street, where another chimney stack collapsed, a settee inside the house began to smoulder and had to be removed.

At Nottingham Divorce Court the walls and the canopy above Judge R.S. Nicklin's head vibrated violently. Proceedings stopped but were resumed after the tremor.

The boy injured is Paul Stevenson, aged four, who was walking with his mother, Mrs Jean Stevenson, aged 28, of Albert Road, Chaddesden, Derby, in Markeaton Street, Derby. She saw a chimney stack falling and told the boy to run, but the masonry struck him. He was detained in hospital. Mrs Stevenson, who was carrying her daughter aged four months, was struck on the leg by a piece of the chimney as she ran, bending over her baby to protect her.

A Derby fire brigade official said: "Engines and tenders were racing round the town trying to keep up with the alarms. In as many minutes we had 64 reports of chimney stacks crashing to the ground."

Several thousand miners in the area were deep underground when the tremors occurred. Pit props were shaken, and trolleys full of coal rocked on their rails. In spite of the alarm work at all the pits continued after a delay.

Twenty-five girls working at the factory of the Royal Crown Derby Procelain Company Limited, were saved by a sunshine roof. A large chimney pot fell down towards them and shattered the glass, but the wire reinforced roof held the dropping masonry.

The tremor was recorded at 3.44 pm in the Leicestershire coalfield area. People in mining towns and villages ran from their homes fearing there had been an underground explosion. Houses were shaken and some people were thrown to the ground by the violence of the vibrations which persisted for several seconds.

ON THIS DAY

February 12, 1957

Seismologists may not have been much impressed by these tremors, but buildings were shaken and chimney pots toppled in towns as far apart as Blackpool and Bristol

ELECTRICITY

هكذا في الإعلام

NEWS

MI5 warning of more bombs

■ John Major held talks with senior Cabinet colleagues in Downing Street to finalise a security clampdown aimed at foiling a renewed IRA bombing campaign on the mainland.

After the Docklands attack, which killed two and injured more than 100, it emerged that MI5 had warned the Government a month ago to expect a renewal of violence. MI5 also said that there would be more terrorist attacks on the mainland and possibly in Northern Ireland..... Pages 1, 2, 3

Rift between London and Dublin

■ The Prime Minister was trying to contain a serious new rift with Dublin over the events which led to Friday's bomb and an end to the 17-month IRA ceasefire. At the same time, President Clinton pledged to do all in his power to rescue the Irish peace initiative ..... Page 1

Jockey hurt

Walter Swinburn, one of Britain's leading jockeys and three times a Derby winner, was unconscious in an intensive care unit of a Hong Kong hospital after falling in a race..... Page 1

Lightning marks

Victims of the world's biggest multiple lightning strike were left with odd skin markings and have shown strange psychological effects since they were injured five months ago..... Page 5

Reading gaps

Academics said that English A-level syllabuses which allowed schools to avoid virtually all pre-20th century literature were creating alarming gaps in the reading of students arriving at university ..... Page 6

Carroll's puzzles

A series of baffling puzzles and brain-teasers invented by Lewis Carroll to amuse Victorian children and Oxford dons has been unearthed..... Page 6

Flower power

British botanists are spearheading a campaign to save some of the world's most endangered and exotic flowers ..... Page 7

Boy's drink spiked

A boy was suffering from complete memory loss a week after his drink was apparently spiked with drugs at a party to celebrate the end of exams ..... Page 7

Blair attack

Tony Blair launched a scathing attack on the Conservatives as the party of privilege and ridiculed their devotion to "a small Tory elite"..... Page 8

Forbes stumbles

Steve Forbes, the millionaire publisher, appeared to have stumbled in the minefields of Iowa's caucuses as the battle for the soul of the Republican Party reached a nadir of negative campaigning..... Page 10

Israeli election

Shimon Peres, the Israeli Prime Minister, formally announced his intention of holding early general elections..... Page 11

Dollars for Russia

The United States Treasury is to unload millions of its new $100 notes — which are supposedly counterfeit-proof — on Russia ..... Page 12

Security gaps

Seven weeks before the European Union starts revamping the Maastricht treaty, the 15 member states have given themselves a fresh lesson in their inability to take joint charge of security in their own backyard..... Page 12

Keating ahead

Paul Keating, the Australian Prime Minister, emerged marginally ahead of the Opposition leader, John Howard, in a nationally televised debate..... Page 13

Computer beats gloomy Kasparov

■ First blood in the chess match between a computer and Garry Kasparov, the world champion, went to the machine. Against expectations, IBM's rapier-quick Deep Blue computer won the first of six scheduled matches, to whoops of joy from computer programmers. Kasparov was reported to be in a gloom after resigning on the 37th move..... Page 1



STEFAN ROUSSEAU

The Duchess of Kent meets women in a slum area of Varanasi, India, during a visit to mark the 50th anniversary of Unicef

BUSINESS

Gas leak: Last week's demerger plans from British Gas could mean the loss of huge potential tax revenues from the company's Morecambe Bay field ..... Page 44

On trial: The hearing starts today of another milestone fraud case: the trial of Elizabeth Forsyth, a former adviser to Asil Nadir..... Page 44

TV wars: Michael Green's Carlton Communications is widely tipped as the protagonist to upset a marriage between United News and Media and MAI..... Page 41

Job claim: The Government will today pile fuel onto the dispute over the social chapter with figures that show that Britain's more flexible economy and labour market is outperforming its competitors in Europe ..... Page 44

Wagner triumphant: At the London Coliseum, English National Opera has staged a thrilling production of Wagner's *Tristan and Isolde*, conducted by Mark Elder..... Page 15

Perilous profession: The story of a child psychiatrist who is subjected to physical and verbal attacks is the subject of Stephen Poliakoff's powerful new play at the Hampstead Theatre, *Sweet Panic*..... Page 15

Cézanne of the day: The masterly *Mont Sainte-Victoire seen from Bibemus*, painted in about 1897, is Richard Cork's choice from the Tate's current Cézanne exhibition..... Page 15

Coltrane by Clark: Jazz band leader Clark Tracey has compiled a tribute to John Coltrane for his most recent London gigs ..... Page 15

Just good friends: When the queen comes to stay with the Carnarvons, as she has done for 40 years, she shares the family roast. Mary Riddell talks to Lady Carnarvon, chatelaine of Highclere Castle and loyal royal friend ..... Page 17

Just say aha! Age is a state of mind, says best-selling author Gail Sheehy, who argues that there *is* life after 50 — what she calls "second adulthood"..... Page 17

Taking genetic advantage: The race is on to find a "safe" genetic test which would predict whether an unborn baby is likely to develop a disease later in life. The first in a two-part series about you and your baby..... Page 16



IN THE TIMES

■ **FUTURE PERFECT**
From you to your baby, part two: the package pregnancy

■ **GOOD FELLA**
Hollywood director Martin Scorcese comes to town and talks to Joe Joseph

4, 11, 14, 15, 28, 32; Bonus: 6.

Coca-Cola Cup: An own goal by Chris Whyte, of Birmingham City, presented Leeds United with a 2-1 victory in the first leg of the semi-final..... Page 23

Cricket: Seven hours of debate failed to break the deadlock over the refusal by Australia and West Indies to play in Sri Lanka. Both forfeit two points..... Pages 23, 25

Football: Liverpool strengthened their position as third in the Premiership with a 2-1 victory over Queens Park Rangers..... Page 27

Rugby union: Rob Andrew, the former England stand-off half, kick-started Newcastle's plans to join the game's elite, but was unable to prevent defeat in the Pilkington Cup..... Page 32

Rugby league: Wigan lost in the Challenge Cup for the first time in nine years, their record being broken by Salford, who beat them 26-16 in the fifth round..... Page 24

Athletics: Aisha Hansen broke the British and Commonwealth triple jump records at Birmingham, but still attracted criticism from her coach for not showing enough speed down the runway..... Page 37

Racing: Walter Swinburn, the Newmarket-based jockey, was taken unconscious to a Hong Kong hospital intensive care unit after being thrown from his horse at the start of a race..... Page 31

THE ARTS

Preview: There is nothing new under the sun, even in the gap between the earth's atmosphere and outer space: *Masters of the Ionosphere* (BBC2, 8pm). **Review:** Lynne Truss liked *Ballykissangel*

LETTERS

Themselves alone

The IRA has still to learn that violence does not pay. The best way is to try to bind together all those with an interest in seeing democracy determine Northern Ireland's future..... Page 19

Warm economic front

Consumers are becoming more confident about their financial future, less pessimistic about the state of the economy and less insecure about their jobs..... Page 19

Delicious culture

It is good news that the French are starting to fight the craze for *le fast food* — and in a manner befitting the masters of the omelette, the finest fast food..... Page 19

OBITUARIES

WILLIAM REES-MOGG

Three days ago there was a united demand for early talks, supported by the whole coalition that Gerry Adams had put together. Now the nationalist front is completely broken..... Page 18

PETER RIDDELL

While there has been much smugness in London over the recent doubts in Germany about the timetable for monetary union, no one should underestimate Kohl's determination..... Page 18

Rear-Admiral Clarence Howard-Johnston, wartime anti-U-boat director; **Sharman Douglas**, New York socialite; **Sir John Badenoch**, consultant physician and lecturer; **Sir Richard Allen**, Ambassador to Burma, 1956-62..... Page 21

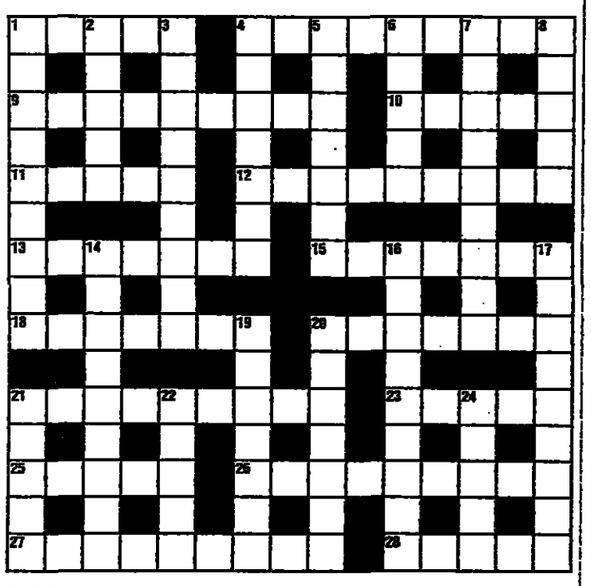
London bomb; need for new house in the countryside; China's threat to Taiwan..... Page 19

LEADERS

The IRA cannot cannot gain more through terror than they can through the patient pursuit of peace. If anything, a new campaign of terror will only set back their cause and wound their people

— *New York Times*

THE TIMES CROSSWORD NO 20,088



ACROSS
1 Puzzle concerning coach (5).
4 Prince's container with a piece of meat rejected by a husband (9).
9 Adjust to accommodate island's form of social organization (9).
10 Cruel mistreatment makes us sore (5).
11 Follow directions and go into action (5).
12 Fish caught in rolling swell showing extra damage (9).
13 Many-sided figure beginning to compose an essay in study (7).
15 Musical passage unknown in a dance composition (7).
18 One ruling about entering disputed border region (7).
20 Unending wish to limit the old man's hopelessness (7).
21 Restricted in movement after heavy fall (9).
23 Crime some fear so needlessly (5).
25 Appearance of male during admission of senescence? (5).
26 Revolutionary device once used when serving porridge (9).
27 Modern song about treat organized by daughter (6-3).
28 Expression of disgust over prospects here in North America? (5).

DOWN
1 Port makes bad lot upset bananas (9).
2 Releases cricket gear (5).
3 Old street cleaner that is the retaliative type (9).
4 Representation of Nemesis in Dresden (7).
5 Classically imposing residence mostly novel for Victorians (7).
6 Hooligan knocks top off food container (5).
7 Wood initially judged appropriate club at St. Andrews (9).
8 Airer on which you might put your shirt (5).
14 Letter in agreement (9).
16 Base celebrity in extremely boring setting out East (9).
17 In Ireland, an unusual stimulant (9).
19 Obsessed, as Scrooge was (7).
20 Decrepit stranger seen in outskirts of Derby (7).
21 A single shot in the silence (5).
22 Bishop's always shown up for papal message (5).
24 Worn tire's a cause of ecological damage (5).

Times Two Crossword, page 44

ABERLOUR
The solution of Saturday's Prize Puzzle No 20,087 will appear next Saturday. The five winners will receive a bottle of Aberlour single highland malt whisky.

TIMES WEATHERCALL

For the latest region by region forecast, 24 hours a day, dial 0891 500 followed by appropriate code.

Greater London	701
Kent,Surrey,Sussex	702
Dorset,Hants & IOW	703
Devon & Cornwall	704
Wilts Glouc,Avon,Soms	705
Berks,Bucks, Oxon	706
Beds,Herts & Essex	707
Norfolk,Suffolk Cambs	708
West Mid & Sth Glam & Gwent	709
Shrops,Heralds & Worcs	710
Central Midlands	711
East Midlands	712
Lincs & Humberside	713
Dyfed & Powys	714
Gwynedd & Clwyd	715
N W England	716
W & S Yorks & Dales	717
N E England	718
Cumbria & Lake District	719
S W Scotland	720
W Central Scotland	721
Edin S Fife,Lothian & Borders	722
E Central Scotland	723
Grampian & E Highlands	724
N W Scotland	725
Caithness Orkney & Shetland	726
N Ireland	727

Weathercall is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

AA ROADWATCH

For the latest AA traffic/roadworks information, 24 hours a day, dial 0336 401 followed by appropriate code

London & SE traffic, roadworks	
Area within M25	731
Essex,Herts,Beds,Bucks/Berks/Oxon	732
Kent,Surrey,Sussex,Hants	734
M25 London Orbital only	736
National traffic and roadworks	
National motorways	737
West Country	738
Wales	739
Midland	740
East Anglia	741
Northern England	742
North-east England	743
Scotland	744
Northern Ireland	745

AA Roadwatch is charged at 39p per minute (cheap rate) and 49p per minute at all other times

HOURS OF DARKNESS

Sun rises: 7.22 am — Sun sets: 5.09 pm
Moon sets 10.38 am — Moon rises 1.02 am

Last quarter today
London 5.09 pm to 7.20 am
Bristol 5.19 pm to 7.29 am
Edinburgh 5.09 pm to 7.44 am
Manchester 5.12 pm to 7.33 am
Penzance 5.34 pm to 7.38 am

WEATHER

☐ **General:** England and Wales will have rain and sleet with persistent wet and windy weather in northern and eastern England. Blustery showers will affect western parts, in particular North Wales, while South Wales and southwest England will be mainly dry with bright spells. Showers will fall as snow over the Pennines, Cumbria and Snowdonia Scotland and Northern Ireland will have sleet and rain. There will be snow in the Borders but the west will be brighter.

☐ **London, SE England, E Anglia, E Midlands:** cloudy with rain, wintry showers after dark. Wind S turning NW near gale decreasing to fresh. Max 7C (45F).

☐ **Central S, SW England, Channel Isles, S Wales:** bright or sunny spells and blustery showers. Mainly dry after dark. Wind NW, near gale decreasing to fresh. Max 9C (48F).

☐ **Central N, NE, NW, E England, Lake District, Borders, Edinburgh & Dundee:** cloudy with rain or sleet, snow on high ground. Sleet or snow after dark. Wind SW swinging NW to N, strong to near gale. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **W Midlands, N Wales, Isle of Man, SW Scotland, Glasgow, Central Highlands:** cloudy with showers, wintry on high ground. Mainly dry by evening. Wind NW strong, becoming fresh. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Aberdeen, Moray Firth, NE Scotland, Orkney, Shetland:** wintry showers and bright spells. Wind NE, fresh to strong. Max 5C (41F).

☐ **Argyll, NW Scotland, N Ireland:** showers. Wind N, fresh to strong. Max 7C (45F).

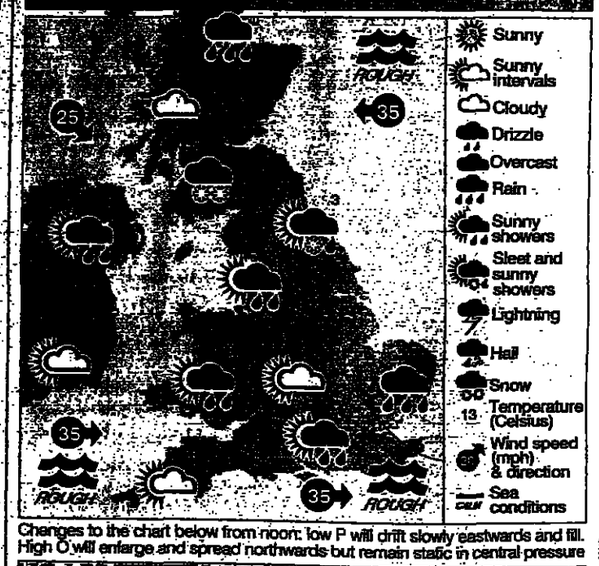
☐ **Outlook:** mainly dry. Sun in the west; isolated wintry showers in the east.

24 hrs to 5 pm; b=bright; c=cloud; d=drizzle; ds=dust storm; du=dull; f=fair; fg=fog; g=gale; h=hail; r=rain; sh=shower; sl=sleet; sn=snow; s=sun; t=thunder

	Sun hrs	Rain in	Max C	Max F	
Aberdeen	.	0.29	5	41	r
Anglesey	1.9	0.01	8	46	b
Aspatria	0.7	0.29	7	45	sh
Aviemore	1.2	0.26	6	43	c
Belfast	0.2	0.13	8	46	r
Birmingham	1.0	0.04	8	46	sh
Bognor R	1.3	.	9	48	c
Bournem'th	.	0.04	10	50	sh
Bristol	1.8	0.02	9	48	c
Buxton	.	0.56	5	41	c
Cardiff	4.4	0.09	9	48	b
Cleethorpes	.	.	.	.	X
Colwyn Bay	1.3	0.10	8	46	b
Cromer	1.4	0.02	8	46	b
Doncaster	.	X	.	.	.
Dunbar	.	X	.	.	.
Eastbourne	.	X	.	.	.
Edinburgh	0.7	0.09	8	46	sh
Eskdalemuir	0.1	0.14	5	41	sh
Exmouth	5.5	0.02	11	52	s
Falmouth	4.8	0.10	11	52	s
Fishguard	1.2	.	8	46	c
Folkestone	1.0	0.04	9	48	c
Glasgow	0.9	0.13	8	46	sh
Guernsey	4.9	0.09	11	52	s
Hastings	0.4	.	8	46	c
Hayling I	1.7	.	9	48	c
Heme Bay	0.5	0.07	9	48	sh
Hove	0.2	.	7	45	c
Hunstanton	1.0	0.02	6	43	c
Ilfracombe	.	X	.	.	.
Isle of Man	1.9	0.03	9	48	c
Jersey	5.2	0.15	10	50	sh
Kinloss	0.1	0.01	7	45	r
Leeds	0.1	0.17	7	45	sn
Lerwick	.	0.17	3	37	sn
Leuchars	5.6	0.06	8	46	s
Littlehmptn	0.4	.	9	48	c
Liverpool	1.0	0.09	7	45	c
London	0.7	0.04	9	48	c
Lowestoft	0.2	0.04	7	45	r
Manchester	0.1	0.20	8	46	sh
Margate	0.3	0.06	9	48	r
Minehead	5.4	0.11	11	52	s
Morecambe	.	0.07	6	43	du
Newcastle	1.9	.	8	46	c
Newquay	2.8	0.01	10	50	b
Oxford	.	0.03	8	46	c
Penzance	4.0	0.09	11	52	sh
Plymouth	X	.	.	.	.
Poole	2.9	0.02	11	52	b
Prestatyn	X	0.07	7	45	c
Ross-o-wye	0.7	.	10	50	c
Sandown	2.5	.	10	50	b
Skegness	3.5	.	9	48	s
Scarboro'	4.8	0.02	8	46	b
Shanklin	3.8	.	9	48	s
Shrewsbury	1.7	0.09	9	48	r
Skegness	X	.	.	.	.
Southend	2.1	0.04	7	45	b
Southport	0.7	0.14	7	45	c
Southsea	1.6	.	9	48	c
St. Ives	X	.	.	.	.
Stornoway	0.3	.	7	45	c
Swanage	4.1	.	10	50	s
Teignmouth	6.2	0.02	11	52	s
Tenby	X	.	.	.	.
Tiree	1.7	0.13	8	46	r
Torquay	5.3	.	12	54	s
Tynemouth	2.2	.	8	46	b
Ventnor	3.5	.	9	48	s
Weymouth	3.8	.	10	50	s

Ajaccio	13	55	f	C'phagn	-4	25	c	Malaga	15	59	s	
Alicante	15	59	f	Dublin	7	45	r	Malta	17	63	f	
Amsterdm	5	41	c	Dubrovnik	9	48	c	Melb'rne	15	59	c	
Athens	9	48	c	Faro	14	57	s	Mexico C	.	.	.	
Barbados	29	84	s	Florence	7	45	f	Miami	25	77	s	
Barcelona	12	54	s	Frankfurt	4	39	c	Milan	5	41	f	
Beirut	16	61	f	Funchal	15	59	c	Montreal	-5	23	.	
Belgrade	-6	21	c	Geneva	7	45	s	Moscow	-10	9	f	
Berlin	-3	27	f	Gibraltar	14	57	s	Munich	5	41	r	
Bermuda	17	63	s	Helsinki	-15	5	s	N Delhi	18	64	s	
Biarritz	8	46	h	Hong K	20	68	s	N York	7	45	f	
Bodo'a	9	48	c	Innsbrck	5	41	f	Nairobi	29	84	f	
Brussels	5	41	r	Istanbul	-1	30	sn	Naples	13	55	f	
Budapst	-4	25	sn	Jo'burg	20	68	f	Nice	12	54	f	
Cairo	18	64	f	Karachi	25	77	s	Oslo	-5	23	sn	
Cape Tn	20	84	s	L Angels	16	61	f	Paris	6	41	f	
Ch'church	18	64	f	L Palmas	19	66	r	Peking	7	45	s	
Chicago	11	52	s	Le Toquet	7	45	f	Perth	40	104	s	
Cologne	6	43	c	Lisbon	13	55	f	Prague	-4	25	c	
Cyprus	12	54	f	Locarno	5	41	s	Reykjavik	1	34	f	
				Luxemborg	-3	26	d	Rhodes	12	54	f	
				Luxor	21	70	s	Rio de J	32	90	f	
				Madrid	8	46	s	Riyadh	22	72	c	
				Majorca	13	55	f	Rome	8	48	c	
								S Frisco	15	59	c	
								S Paulo	31	88	s	
								Salzburg	-6	43	f	
								Santiago	29	84	s	
								Seoul	4	39	c	
								Sing'por	27	81	f	
								St'kholm	-8	21	c	
								Straslb'rg	-5	41	c	
								Sydney	23	70	s	
								Tangier	13	55	s	
								Tel Aviv	13	55	c	
								Tenerife	18	64	c	
								Tokyo	9	48	s	
								Toronto	0	32	sn	
								Tunis	14	57	f	
								Valencia	15	59	s	
								Vanc'ver	3	37	s	
								Venice	3	37	r	
								Vienna	-5	23	s	
								Warsaw	-10	14	c	
								Wash'ton	-7	45	c	
								Wel'ngton	21	70	s	
								Zurich	2	36	r	

Temperatures at midday local time. X = not available



Changes to the chart below from noon: low P will drift slowly eastwards and fill. High O will enlarge and spread northwards but remain static in central pressure

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
London Bridge	6:20	6.4	7:02	6.3
Aberdeen	6:25	3.7	6:50	3.7
Avonmouth	11:52	11.4	.	.
Belfast	3:46	3.7	4:25	3.3
Cardiff	11:45	10.3	.	.
Devonport	10:24	4.7	10:55	4.6
Dover	3:20	6.1	3:47	5.8
Dublin (N Wall)	8:51	3.8	8:29	3.7
Falmouth	9:50	4.6	10:21	4.3
Greenock	5:08	3.0	5:24	3.2
Harwich	4:11	3.6	4:50	3.5
Holyhead	2:57	4.8	3:21	4.8
Hull (Albert D)	11:19	6.5	11:29	6.5
Ilfracombe	10:37	7.8	11:13	7.6
Leith	8:48	4.4	9:06	4.4
Walton-on-Naze	4:39	3.8	4:50	3.8

TODAY	AM	HT	PM	HT
Leith	7:37	4.8	8:00	4.8
Liverpool	3:51	8.2	4:21	8.1
Lowestoft	2:02	2.8	2:34	2.7
Margate	4:26	4.4	4:59	4.3
Milford Haven	11:01	5.9	11:32	5.7
Newquay	10:07	5.7	10:43	5.5
Oban	10:13	3.3	10:56	3.1
Penzance	9:15	4.7	9:51	4.5
Portland	10:58	1.5	11:30	1.4
Portsmouth	3:51	4.2	4:19	4.1
Shoreham	3:35	5.5	4:02	5.3
Southampton	3:17	4.1	3:41	4.0
Stromness	11:02	7.9	11:38	7.7
Tees	8:48	4.4	9:06	4.4
Weston-on-Naze	4:39	3.8	4:50	3.8

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Yesterday: Highest day temp: Torquay, Devon, 12C (54F); lowest day max: Bala Sound, Shetland, (3F); highest rainfall: Buxton, Derbyshire, 0.56in; highest sunshine: Teignmouth, Devon, 6.2hrs

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